

# THE JOURNAL

Friday, February 3, 2006

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**Sports** Throwback baseball league seeks players for East Bay team [C1]

**Arts & Leisure** Singing is a family affair for Jenna Mammina [C10]

## Council scales back condo project for plaza

Whether the reduction in height and other changes will be enough to satisfy opponents remains to be determined

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

One of two buildings comprising a condominium development at El Cerrito Plaza will be scaled back one floor as part of the City Council's approval of the project. But it remains unclear whether that and other revisions

will satisfy several groups who opposed the project.

The reduction in height will likely reduce the total number of units, though the developer didn't know by how many. In a 4-1 vote this week, the council agreed to allow no more than 128 units.

Three members of the council strongly supported the development, saying it fit well with the city's effort to develop high-density housing near public transit and commercial uses.

"I feel the project in its general intent is consistent with the general plan," said Council-

woman Sandi Potter, "and it brings transit-oriented development to a place where we can see people live in housing and not rely on cars."

Councilwoman Jan Bridges and Councilman Bill Jones said they also supported the transit-oriented concept but were concerned about the height of the buildings and the lack of parking spaces.

Jones voted against the development, saying the city could get a better plan. In particular, he was concerned about how trucks would access the Albert-

son's loading dock near the project on the southeast corner of the shopping center, and also wanted better traffic access to the condominiums from San Pablo Avenue.

"I still have problems with where this project is going," Jones said. "I would much prefer to look at a revised project before we approve it."

In response to Jones' and Bridges' concerns, the council agreed to increase the ratio of parking spaces for the development from 1.25 spaces per unit to 1.5; as well as require a new road

leading from the condominiums west to San Pablo Avenue.

"I will be discussing with Regency (Centers, the primary owner of the plaza) the concept of having that straight road," said developer Bill Garlock, who is working with Carl Fortney on the project. "If I can do it, I will. To make it marketable, I need that clear road."

The new road will be part of a study and improvements to plaza traffic required as a condition of the planning commission's November approval.

The council also agreed to a

request by Garlock to roll back a planning commission condition designating a few additional units above the 15 percent city baseline as affordable housing.

Eight residents huddled in the cold following the three-hour meeting Tuesday expressed dismay over the loss of the affordable units, as well as the lack of any "green" architectural elements.

Reducing the southern building from five to four floors also failed to satisfy them.

See CONDO, Page A9

## Shops part of area's rebirth

Central Perk cafe and record store Mod Lang join others to spur the city's revitalization

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

Coffee, collectibles and compact discs will be the featured attractions as two businesses open their doors this month near El Cerrito Plaza, continuing the city's economic revitalization.

One is Central Perk, a cafe and collectibles store at Central and San Pablo avenues, that shares the name of the hangout on the sitcom "Friends." The other is Mod Lang, a longtime Berkeley record store that specializes in college and imported rock music.

It will open Monday at 6328 Fairmount Ave., near San Pablo.

The shops are among a handful of new businesses that have opened or plan to around the plaza, spurred in part by the city's revitalization effort.

"It's just creating a hub of activity, and I think it's good in terms of bringing more people to the area," said Lori Trevino, the city's redevelopment manager.

Peet's Coffee and Tea opened last fall. Up north on San Pablo Avenue and Carlson Avenue last fall, the Cerrito Theater is being renovated, and expected to open in August.

A few blocks away, on Fairmount Avenue at Kearney Street, the office building will be renovated this spring to house Berkeley music store Ifshin Violins.

Ifshin and Mod Lang have both been longtime inhabitants of University Avenue, and will sit next to each other on Fairmount Avenue.

The plaza has actually turned



**CENTRAL PERK OWNER** Sue Fox looks out toward San Pablo Avenue from her soon-to-open store/cafe near El Cerrito Plaza. Fox is a former aircraft engineer who became a full-time collectibles dealer in the mid-1980s. Central Perk will offer thousands of collectibles for sale.

out really nice lately I've noticed," said Naomi Diamond, the co-owner of Mod Lang. "It's got Trader Joe's, Barnes and Noble and Pier 1. The space we're going into is about half a block away from the BART station."

Ifshin and Mod Lang are moving for a number of reasons, but both businesses singled out parking problems on University Avenue.

Dave Fogarty, Berkeley's economic development director, said there's no quick fix to the parking problems, which occur in part because Berkeley has jobs and shops that draw a lot of people.

"It's not necessarily a disadvantage, but Berkeley certainly has a parking problem, no question about that," Fogarty said. "If El Cerrito is successful in redevelopment, it's going to have a parking problem, too."

Sue Fox has no doubt she'll be drawing customers to Central

Perk. She's planning to open later this month.

"People are going to have an experience," she said. "It's not just a place to have a cup of coffee."

That experience will include thousands of collectibles, such as 1,200 Jack-in-the-Box toys, 800 bobble-heads (little dolls, often celebrities, with wobbly heads), hundreds of Pez candy dispensers and retro furniture, including 800 1960s- and 1970s-era lamps.

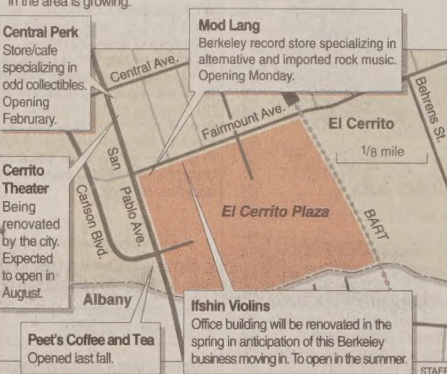
A former aircraft and space shuttle systems engineer with a lifetime passion for collecting, Fox said she became a full-time collectibles dealer in 1985. She said she began receiving national attention in the early 1990s because of her Pez candy dispenser collection.

"I was best known for Pez," she said. "Pez changed my life."

See SHOPS, Page A9

## Revitalization catching on

Spurred by the revitalization of El Cerrito Plaza, the number of businesses in the area is growing.



## City feels loss of slain pair

By Karl Fischer  
and Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITERS

El Cerrito residents were left stunned by the brutal slaying of corporate attorney Paul Rogers and his wife Julie Wycoff Rogers this week — one of the most shocking homicides in the city's history.

Julie Rogers was a former member of the planning commission who once served with three current City Council members. She and her husband were both well-known throughout the city for their participation in civic life.

"I think their focus was their kids and their activities," said Mayor Janet Abelson. "That was very important. That's why this is so utterly surprising."

Paul Rogers had moved his law practice a few years ago to work closer to home and family, in the town where his high school graduating class voted him "most likely to succeed."

See ROGERS, Page A8

## Albany to hear waterfront proposal

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

The Albany City Council will hear a presentation Monday of a proposed ballot initiative that would prevent large-scale development along the Albany waterfront.

Members of Citizens for East Shore Parks and Citizens for the Albany Shoreline announced the ballot effort at a rally that drew about 300 people last week, said Brian Parker, co-chair of the Albany shoreline group. The Sierra Club is also supporting the initiative.

That coalition is battling a plan by Southern California developer Rick Caruso to bring an outdoor shopping mall, housing and a hotel to underused parking lots on the northwest side of the Golden Gate Fields racetrack. The development would require voter approval to rezone the property.

See WATERFRONT, Page A9

## District wants campus to be declared unsafe

By Shirley Dang  
STAFF WRITER

The West Contra Costa school district is asking the state to declare one of its middle schools a safety risk in order to become eligible for state funds to rebuild the campus.

District administrators planned to submit evidence to the state this week that shows Portola Middle School would pose a hazard to its 640 students in the event of an earthquake, said district engineering officer Bill Savidge. The 11-acre campus sits on a landslide-prone parcel in El Cerrito, half a mile from the Hayward fault.

If the Division of the State Architect agrees that the building is an imminent danger, the district

could receive 50 percent of the renovation cost from the state Office of Public School Construction.

At a recent bond oversight committee meeting, Associate Superintendent of Operations Vince Kilmartin pegged the savings at close to \$30 million.

"In order to get the hardship money," Kilmartin said, "we must declare it unsafe."

Concerns about potential seismic hazards at Portola heated up early last year, delaying the school's reconstruction and prompting a lawsuit.

The hillside school is one of 22 West Contra Costa campus renovations based on allegedly faulty geological and seismic information

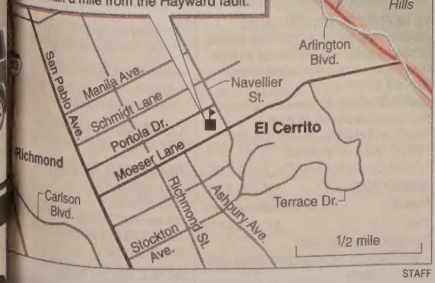
given by Pleasant Hill engineer Zuhayr Nizam-Aldine. Students already occupy 17 elementary schools that were completed using questionable work by his company, Globe Soil Engineers. The total estimated construction cost of the completed schools is \$300 million.

In January 2005, the California Geological Survey wrote that Globe's report on Portola lacked calculations necessary for assessing seismic hazards. As a result, the state architect rejected designs for the school. In May, the district filed a suit against Nizam-Aldine for fraud, negligence and breach of contract.

See PORTOLA, Page A9

## Portola Middle School

The West Contra Costa school district is asking the state to declare the campus unsafe. The school sits on a landslide-prone parcel half a mile from the Hayward fault.



## Herbicide debate

■ Albany considers use of Roundup at Memorial Park. Page A2



## Martin Snapp

■ The theft of bikes for disabled kids has a happy ending. Page A3

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INFORMATION FOR LIFE

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Caruso to present plans to commissions

A presentation by Caruso Affiliated of its development proposal for Golden Gate Fields will be given to the park and recreation, traffic and safety, and planning and zoning commissions beginning next week. The meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday; 7 p.m., Thursday; and 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22, respectively.

Caruso Affiliated wants to build a controversial commercial and housing development on underused parking lots at Golden Gate Fields. The meetings are intended to help the city gather information, ask questions and offer feedback about the project under the respective commissions' purview.

The meetings will be held at the City Council Chamber, 1000 San Pablo Ave. At the same location on Monday, the City Council will decide whether the meetings should be televised on local cable channel 33. The council meeting will be held at 8 p.m. For more information, call 510-528-5760 or 510-528-5720.

— Alan Lopez

## District to consider MacGregor relocation

The Albany school district board will consider a recommendation Wednesday to move MacGregor Continuation High School to the district's Vista campus.

MacGregor is now located within Ocean View Elementary School at 1000 Jackson St. The district is considering moving the 40-student campus to the site of the former Vista Elementary School at 720 Jackson St.

School District Superintendent Willie Wong said the MacGregor relocation was needed to make room for approximately 30 additional students anticipated at Ocean View next school year.

The relocation will likely require the eviction of one of two preschools now operating at the Vista site.

The school board meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Cornell Elementary School multi-purpose room, 920 Talbot Ave. For more information, 510-558-3766.

— Alan Lopez

## Arts committee seeks projects input

The Albany Arts Committee is seeking input for public art projects under consideration at three city parks. Public art locations at Memorial Park will be discussed Monday, Feb. 13; a design of art elements for the Ocean View Park entry will be discussed on Monday, March 13; and a tile project at Terrace Park will be discussed Monday, April 10.

All meetings will be held at 7 p.m. at the Albany community center, 1249 Marin Ave. To be included on a notification list for public meetings, e-mail [albanyartscommittee@albanyca.org](mailto:albanyartscommittee@albanyca.org). Arts Committee agendas and information can also be viewed at [www.albanyca.org](http://www.albanyca.org). For more information, call 510-524-9283.

— Alan Lopez

## Directory of youth programs available

A directory with information about programs and classes for Albany youth at the Albany YMCA, the city's recreation department, University Village and the Albany Library is available. The directory can be picked up at those locations as well as Albany Chamber of Commerce and the Albany school district office. It can also be found online at [www.acibary.org/branches/alb/albanycommunity.asp](http://www.acibary.org/branches/alb/albanycommunity.asp).

The directory shows programs and classes available through June for preschool, elementary, middle and high school-aged children, as well as for families.

— Alan Lopez

## Council to discuss tax measure plans

The Albany City Council will discuss potential June tax measures Monday that would pay for infrastructure needs.

City staff is recommending that the council place two tax measures on the June ballot: one that would pay for storm drain and street repair and a measure that would fund library services, according to a report written by City Administrator Beth Pollard and assistant to the city administrator Judy Lieberman.

Pollard and Lieberman also recommend putting off a number of city needs for a potential tax measure in November or later. Those needs include the restoration of the Veterans Memorial Hall and the purchase of land from Caltrans to be turned into park; plus city-wide annual maintenance and youth programs.

The meeting is intended to gather public input. It will be held at 8 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chamber, 1000 San Pablo Ave. For more information, call 510-528-5710.

— Alan Lopez

## AARP offers help for taxpayers

The AARP is offering Tax-Aide, a free service that can answer many of the tax issues faced by middle- and low-income taxpayers, with special attention to those ages 60 and older. The service will be available through April 15 at various locations, including the El Cerrito Open House senior center at 6500 Stockton Ave. (Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.); the Albany Senior Center at 846 Masonic Ave. (Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.); the West Berkeley Public Library at 1125 University Ave. (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15 p.m. to 4 p.m.); the North Berkeley Senior Center at 1901 Hearst Ave. (Tuesdays, noon to 4 p.m.); and the South Berkeley Library at 1901 Russell St. (Saturdays from noon to 4:30 p.m.).

For more information, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide) for year-round assistance.

— Craig Lazeretti

## Fire department sells disaster kits

Some 50 disaster kits are available for \$45 each at the Albany fire department. Kits include a five-gallon bucket with starting rations of emergency food bars, water and water-treatment tablets. There's also a pocket knife, water bottle, blanket, poncho, flashlight, combination match case with compass and whistle, first aid items and more.

Residents should call Fire Marshall Brian Crudo at 510-528-5775 for more information. The fire department will also be selling the kits at an event commemorating the San Francisco earthquake centennial. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 at the fire department, 1000 San Pablo Ave.

— Alan Lopez

## Albany debates the use of herbicide at park

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

A failure by the Albany park and recreation commission to agree on whether the city should employ herbicide at Memorial Park is foreshadowing a larger debate about the use of the chemical citywide.

At a recent meeting, the commission deadlocked 3-3 on whether the city should use nonchemical means to remove turf at the park. The commission will reconsider the issue Thursday.

As part of a \$2.9 million renovation of three parks, the city is looking at replacing the grass field on the north end of Memorial Park. It's considering using the chemical glyphosate, commonly known as Roundup, on the existing turf.

"A number of people are trying to say that the dangers of a one-time use of glyphosate are too large, and I don't think that's the case," said parks commissioner Roger Carlsen, who voted against moving forward with a nonchemical method. "Also, we haven't discussed it, we haven't gone into the details of what the risks are, and what the cost of not using glyphosate is."

Carlsen, who was appointed to the parks commission last month, formerly sat on the board of the Albany Little League as well as the Association of Sports Field Users, which maintains the ball fields at Ocean View and Memorial parks.

Resident Nan Wishner opposes the use of glyphosate at Memorial Park, calling it too great a health risk and not worth the money the city would save.

The alternative is to dig up two to six inches of grass and dirt, and have it hauled away in trucks.

"I have heard numbers," said



GREGORY UROUGA/STAFF

THE ALBANY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION recently deadlocked on whether to use nonchemical means to remove turf at Memorial Park as part of a renovation project. The commission will reconsider the issue at a meeting Thursday.

Carlsen, "running from \$50,000 to \$75,000 and maybe more than that, depending on how much dirt we have to take off and how much dirt we need to buy and have brought back in."

Carlsen, Wishner and others agreed the city needed to develop an overall pest- and weed-management policy.

The city's parks master plan, approved in late 2004, says Albany will develop a policy that favors the use of organic or natural methods; and through a thorough and public process, will consider the careful and limited use of chemicals of the least-toxic nature.

Wishner said Albany should

consider adopting a policy similar to what's on the books in the Humboldt County Arcata, which leaves the means as a last resort. Arcata hasn't used chemical control methods in 15 years, Dan Diemer.

"I would be comfortable with a plan like that," said a technical writer in the city, "if our staff is willing to apply this policy in a way that it really works."

The parks commission will craft a policy for recommendation to the City Council at its next six to eight months.

Thursday's commission meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the community center, 1249 Marin Ave.

The City Council will consider a recommendation on the herbicide issue at Memorial Park on March 6, the Albany recreation commission deadlocks again, which may hold off on the decision.

The city is planning to renovate the three parks this year.

"They know they're coming up with a recommendation because we need plans and specs out of Chinn said."

In the meantime, the city can apply for an opening commission following the resignation of Brian Park week. Councilman Lieber will make the decision. Call 510-528-5775 for more information.

Six of the seven commission openings are filled. Councilman Robert Good appointed Trout last week. Trout pointed after the vote on use of herbicide was taken.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-528-3578 or e-mail [alopez@hillsnews.com](mailto:alopez@hillsnews.com).

## ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

## Monday, Jan. 23

■ **INTRUDER** — A resident on the 900 block of Pomona Avenue reported that a man described as white or Latino, about 20 years old, tall, with brown hair and wearing a badge around his neck, came into his living room and started asking her questions about her home. He then departed on foot, and was gone when officers arrived.

■ **PURSE FOUND** — A woman's purse was found on the sidewalk on the 900 block of Pomona Avenue. A check found that it belonged to a woman whose car had been broken into while in Berkeley.

■ **WALLET STOLEN** — Someone stole the wallet out of a purse that was in a shopping cart in the Safeway store on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue. The owner had left it unattended for a couple minutes, and found it gone when she returned.

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At about 9:30 p.m., a resident on the 1500 block of Albany Terrace reported that a man, who appeared to be intoxicated, had climbed over her fence and was looking at her through her backdoor window. He asked her to open the door, but when she refused he attempted, unsuccessfully, to go back over the fence. Officers arrested the 23-year-old Albany man for disorderly conduct.

was behind the Safeway store on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue for petty theft, drug possession and an outstanding warrant for failure to appear.

■ **BUICK STOLEN** — During the night, someone stole a green 1994 Buick on the 1000 block of Peralta Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ **MULTIPLE CHARGES** — At about 9 p.m. officers stopped a 1999 Ford near Solano Avenue and Key Route Boulevard for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 25-year-old Oakland man, was found to have a suspended license, expired registration, false registration tags, and an outstanding Oakland warrant for driving with a suspended license, no insurance and failure to appear. He was cited and released. The passenger had a valid driver's license, and was allowed to drive the car away.

## Wednesday, Jan. 25

■ **TOYOTA STOLEN** — During the night, someone stole a white 1987 Toyota Camry that was parked on the 900 block of Fillmore Street. There were no witnesses.

■ **MULTIPLE CHARGES** — At about 10 a.m. officers arrested a 31-year-old Union City man near Buchanan and Madison streets for misappropriation of found property, drug possession and probation violations.

on the 900 block of Ordway Street that had been reported as stolen. The license plate was also found to have been stolen. They did not have anyone in custody, and the owner was notified.

■ **ARMED ROBBERY** — At about 7:15 p.m., someone with a gun robbed the J.V. Liquor store on the 700 block of San Pablo Avenue and fled with cash. Officers are investigating.

## Friday, Jan. 27

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — During the night, someone broke into a blue 1987 Honda Accord on the 800 block of Cerro Street and stole items from the trunk. The owner said that this was the fourth time this has happened.

■ **MULTIPLE CHARGES** — At about 3 p.m., a resident on the 600 block of Evelyn Avenue reported that a man was going into yards and had left a white 2001 Toyota SUV in front of the house. A check found that the car had expired registration and 11 parking violations. The 29-year-old Berkeley man was found to have an outstanding warrant for drug possession charges, he was on probation for drug charges, and had a suspended driver's license.

## Saturday, Jan. 28

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At

midnight, a 22-year-old Rockville man was arrested near Solano and Adams Street for being in public.

■ **DUI** — At about 2 a.m., officers stopped a black Honda Civic on Buchanan Street for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 25-year-old Berkeley woman, for DUI.

■ **HONDA RECOVERED** — Officers located a brown 1991 Honda Civic on the 1100 block of Dartmouth Street that had been stolen in Berkeley on Jan. 26. They did not have anyone in custody, and the owner was notified.

## Sunday, Jan. 29

■ **TWO HONDAS STOLEN** — During the night, someone stole a white 1991 Honda Civic on the block of Neilson Street. A white 1990 Honda Accord on the block of Neilson Street was also stolen. There were no witnesses either incident.

## Monday, Jan. 30

■ **DUI** — Officers arrested a 31-year-old Albany man near Washington and Pierce Street for an outstanding warrant issued in 2004 for DUI.

— Kris

## Tuesday, Jan. 24

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — Officers arrested a 54-year-old man who

## Thursday, Jan. 26

■ **CHEVROLET RECOVERED** — Officers located a white 1963 Chevrolet

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Because of delays receiving information from the El Cerrito Police Department, the Journal is unable to publish police reports for that city this week.

## Community demands better air quality from steel foundry

By Dorothy Vriend  
CORRESPONDENT

More than 100 community members met with air district officials at the West Berkeley Senior Center earlier this week, saying the district's December settlement with Pacific Steel Casting doesn't go far enough to address rising production levels at the foundry.

Sarah Simonet, founder of West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs, also protested that community members were

left out of the settlement and that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District needs to do more to hold Pacific Steel Casting accountable.

In a move Wednesday designed to add to the pressure, Willi Paul, a member of the alliance, launched CleanAirCoalition.net, which he characterized as a cleanup strategy "with teeth."

He said the organization is not linked to the alliance, although he is a member of both. The coalition intends to file multiple

small claims lawsuits, suing for damages under a state public nuisance law to force PSC back to the table, Paul said.

"We will sign up as many as 150 individuals in El Cerrito, Albany and Berkeley as a way to bring PSC to negotiate a better, cleaner deal," Paul said.

Community members at Tuesday's meeting demanded more public participation, and asked for a reduction of toxics used — not just a filtration of the toxics — at the plant. They also said

they want to see the air district address emissions escaping from open doors and from Plant 2, which generates neighborhood complaints even though it has a carbon-filtration system.

Air district officials pointed out the accomplishments of the past year, including the deal that requires PSC to install a new carbon air-filtration system on Plant 3 and to complete a health risk assessment, taking into account some 40 compounds used by the company.

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# Neighbors

## Kind donors come to rescue of disabled kids

LOVE HAPPY ENDINGS, and this one is about as happy as it gets. Remember when some thieves broke into a warehouse in Berkeley in December and cleaned out the Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program, which provides recreation activities for disabled kids? They took everything — the tandem bicycles that blind children rode with sighted partners, the three-wheeled bikes for children with cerebral palsy or brain injuries, the handcycles for children who have lost the use of their legs. They even stole the spare tires and hand pumps.

"They essentially wiped us out," BORP Executive Director Nick Spittler said at the time. The fact that this happened at the holidays makes it especially painful, because these kids haven't got very much."

But what a difference a month makes! The day after the news broke, the contributions started pouring in. One man walked in and donated his entire \$1,000 Christmas bonus. Another raised \$1,000 from his co-workers.

Kristi Yamaguchi's foundation kicked in another \$5,000, and Wells Fargo and PG&E offered matching grants.

Most touching of all were the individual donations of \$5 and \$10 from people who clearly are on fixed incomes.

As of today BORP has raised \$128,000 — enough to replace all the bikes.

"But it gets even better," says Spittler. "We scrounged the old bikes here and there, taking whatever we could get and jury-rigging them to fit each child's disability as best we could. But it was never a perfect fit. Now we can custom-order the new bikes to match each kid's individual needs."

Before the burglary, all the children had bikes to ride; but because the fit wasn't perfect, many could go only 3 or 4 miles per hour.

Now, riding a custom-tailored bike, every kid will be able to go up to 20 miles per hour.

"It makes all the difference in the world," says Spittler. They can fly like the wind. And the bikes are easier to ride, so right away they feel the thrill of success."

The irony isn't lost on Spittler and his colleagues.

"What started out as a disaster



MARTIN SNAPP  
Snapp Shots

ter turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to us," he says. "We've been around for 30 years, but nobody outside the disabled community knew about us. We've been sweating and struggling to raise nickels and dimes. Now, because of this theft, we can rebuild the program better than it ever was before."

The heroes of this story are you, dear readers. Spittler said many of the donations came from you. I want you to picture a group of disabled children, laughing with glee as they race their bikes at the Marina, feeling free as a bird — perhaps for the first time in their lives.

And then remember that it's all because of you. Some very bad people stole their autonomy, but you gave it back to them.

You also gave them something even more important: You taught them that there are a lot more good people in this world than bad.

Give yourself a pat on the back. You deserve it.

And if you'd like to jump on this bandwagon, there's still room. Now that they've got our attention, BORP would love to replace its old wheelchair-accessible van, a creaky '89 clunker that's rapidly becoming unsafe for the kids to ride in.

"And if we can't go get them, they can't participate," says Spittler. "Many of them come from low-income homes, and their parents don't own a car." A good used wheelchair-accessible van costs about \$12,000-\$15,000. If you want to help, you can either contribute through BORP's Web site, [www.borp.org](http://www.borp.org), or by sending a tax-deductible check to BORP, 830 Bancroft Way, Room 205, Berkeley, CA 94710.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2768 or e-mail [msnapp@cctimes.com](mailto:msnapp@cctimes.com).

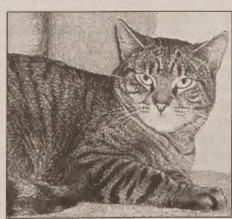
## LET OF THE WEEK

BERKELEY — The following animals may be available for adoption at the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society.

Cats: 3-month-old male brown tabby domestic short hair (DSH); 4-month-old female gray and white domestic medium hair; 7-year-old male black and white domestic long hair (DLH); 10-month-old female calico DSH; 1-year-old female gray tabby DSH; 10-year-old female blue DLH; 3-year-old female gray DSH; 9-month-old female black and white DSH; 1-year-old female orange and white DLH; 4-year-old male black DLH; many more cats and kittens of various ages, sizes and colors.

Dogs: 1-year-old male yellow Labrador retriever; 5-year-old female black and tan shepherd mix; 4-month-old female black Labrador retriever; 1-year-old female red show chow mix; 2-year-old female border and white cattledog/sharpei mix; 1-year-old male brown Aussie/collie mix; 1-year-old tan Rhodesian ridgeback mix; 1-year-old male black and white pointer mix; 1-year-old male black and white bull terrier-hound mix; 1-year-old female red tri-color Australian kelpie.

Adoption fee: dogs \$125; cats



BERKELEY-EAST BAY HUMANE SOCIETY

DELIA is a 3-year-old brown tabby domestic short hair cat. She loves to cuddle and loves to play, especially with other cats. For more information on Delia or other animals available for adoption, call or visit the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society.

\$100; rabbits \$40 — including spaying, neutering and age-appropriate shots. There is an overnight hold period. The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society is located at 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. Its hours are 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Information: [www.berkeleyhumane.org](http://www.berkeleyhumane.org) or call 510-845-7735.

## FACES & PLACES

### Chamber offices to close for renovation

The El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce office at 10848 San Pablo Ave. will close for about two weeks starting Monday while it is being renovated by members of the Rotary Club of El Cerrito.

"This is something they did 15 years ago, so they're refreshing their community project," said Tracy Giles, the chamber board president and a Rotary member. "For us, it will certainly be a facelift — we'll get fresh paint on the outside and fresh paint on the inside, new rugs and new furniture. It will look so different."

Rotary members will begin the work Saturday morning, and it will continue until about Feb. 20, Giles said. Phone calls will still be answered or forwarded to a voice mail.

Meanwhile, the chamber is also seeking sponsorships, from \$250 to \$2,500, to help fund the May 7 Taste of El Cerrito event. A portion of the proceeds will go toward two or more scholarships for El Cerrito High School students wanting to attend business school. The chamber can be reached at 510-233-7040.

— Alan Lopez

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION:** The El Cerrito Preschool Cooperative is accepting applications for the upcoming school year for children 2½ years old and older. Interested parents can get more information about the school at an open house scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

The school, located at 7200 Mooser Lane, includes two large play areas and a backyard with a garden. For more information, call 510-526-1916 or visit [www.ecpckids.com](http://www.ecpckids.com).

— Alan Lopez

**BABY-SITTER WORKSHOP:** A baby-sitter training workshop for children ages 11 to 15 will be held Saturday, Feb. 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Albany community center, 1249 Marin Ave. Taught by the American Red Cross, the workshop trains teens on first aid, diapering and feeding techniques, handling bedtime issues, and how to have a safe baby-sitting experience.

The cost is \$55 for Albany residents and \$65 for everyone else. For more information, call 510-524-9283.

— Alan Lopez

**MONTESSORI SCHOOL AUCTION:** Montessori Family School hosted its annual auction Jan. 21 at the Baltic Square Pub in Point Richmond. The event attracted 120 parents, family and friends for an evening of live music, food and drink by the school's Parent Association.

Highlighting the list of items were round-trip tickets for two on Southwest Airlines, and vacation stays at Cape Cod, Hawaii, Sea Ranch, Tahoe and Stinson Beach.

Formed in 1981, Montessori Family School ([www.montessorifamilyschool.com](http://www.montessorifamilyschool.com)) serves 114 families from as far north as Pinole to the southern reaches of Oakland. With two campuses — the preschool/kindergarten on Scenic in Berkeley and the elementary (grades 1-6) in Kensington — the school has an enrollment of 134 students.

— Craig Lazzarotti

**ORAL FILM PROJECT:** A committee organizing an oral history film for El Cerrito High School is looking for volunteers.



LUCAS MASCH, 7, is delighted during Dave "Daffy Dave" Mampel's performance at the Kensington Library on Jan. 24. Daffy Dave, a variety entertainer, performed music, comedy and juggling.



The committee is looking for people who want to be interviewed or trained to interview people; as well as residents who have experience producing such films.

The people in the film will be teachers, graduates, administrators and others that had a part in the school's history, said organizer Joann Steck-Bayat.

The oral history committee will meet at 7 p.m. on Feb. 21, March 14, April 11, May 9 and June 13 in room 72 at the high school, located at 540 Ashbury Ave.

For information, call Mayor Janet Abelson at 510-525-7709.

— Alan Lopez

**ARTIST'S WORK ON DISPLAY:** Albany residents are invited to see local artist Doris Vil-

ladsen Mendell's work at the Cape Cod restaurant at 1150 Solano Ave.

Mendell, a 32-year Albany resident, has taught art locally, and has a master's in art from UC Berkeley. The four paintings on display include her reflections of swimming at the Doubletree Hotel in Berkeley.

"A lot of my paintings are of that subject, of pool reflections and the water," said Mendell, who has been working with acrylics.

A retired school teacher, Mendell has been showing her paintings in public in San Ramon and Oakland. She also tutors students learning English as a second language.

Her work, which will be changed every four to six weeks at the restaurant, is available for sale.

— Alan Lopez

**CERRITO CREEK PLANTINGS:** Friends of Five Creeks vol-

unteers will be planting natives and removing invasive plants to restore habitat along the new Cerrito Creek walkway from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Participants should wear shoes with good traction and clothes that can get dirty. Meet at Creekside Park, the south end of Santa Clara St., in El Cerrito. For more information, visit [www.fivecreeks.org](http://www.fivecreeks.org), e-mail [f5creeks@apl.com](mailto:f5creeks@apl.com) or call 510-848-9358.

— Craig Lazzarotti

Have an item about a scholarship, an award, an interesting vacation or another experience that you'd like to share with other Journal readers? If you have a photo — print or digital — we can use those, too. (Sorry, we cannot return print photos.) Send items for Faces & Places to the editor by e-mail: [journal@cctimes.com](mailto:journal@cctimes.com), or mailing to: The Journal, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806.

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## Wanted for Participation in Aging Research Study:

Healthy older people age 50 and older are invited to participate in a study to investigate how thinking abilities change over time.

Study details: These studies are not expected to result in any medical benefit or cause you any harm. Subjects who are presently not in good health, who have had any history of neurological or psychiatric problems, or who cannot speak English proficiently should not volunteer for the study. When you call to volunteer for this study a research associate will ask you a series of questions to determine your eligibility. If you are chosen for participation, a consent form and the Subjects Bill of Rights will be given to you to read and sign on the day of the study. You will be given a verbal explanation of the protocol procedure and possible discomforts.

There will be no monetary compensation for participation in this study. The study will take approximately 3-4 hours to complete.

You will come to the University of California, Berkeley, where you will have a brief medical interview and a medical examination. Following this, you will take a series of tests designed to assess your thinking abilities. These tests use pencil and paper or computers and involve things such as solving puzzles and remembering lists of words.

We will place your name on a list and contact you every 1 or 2 years and invite you back for retesting. We will also call you periodically to see if you are interested in participating in other studies in laboratories at Berkeley that are studying brain aging.

If you are interested in participating in this study please contact:

The Berkeley Aging Cohort Study at (510) 643-6609. Our address is: Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, 132 Barker Hall, University of California, Berkeley 94720-3190

HILLS EDITOR • CRAIG LAZZERETTI

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON

## THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

## EDITORIALS

## El Cerrito condo project still not worth the costs

THE EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL'S decision this week to make minor changes to the proposed condo project for El Cerrito Plaza seems unlikely to allay the concerns of the various groups that have opposed it. The decision also threatens to needlessly strain relations with neighboring Albany, where the City Council, school district and a neighborhood group all appealed the project.

The council decided to remove one floor from one of the buildings comprising the development and to increase the ratio of parking spaces, among other changes. While this was a step in the right direction, we do not believe it went far enough to address the environmental, traffic and safety concerns that have been raised in recent months.

The project's proximity to many Albany neighborhoods, as well as Albany Middle School, means it will have a major impact on an area outside El Cerrito's borders. Given the continual complaints about the traffic situation at El Cerrito Plaza, it's reasonable to assume this large residential project will make a bad situation worse.

El Cerrito City Councilman Bill Jones, the lone council member to vote against the project, got it right when he said: "I would much prefer to look at a revised project before we approve it."

Given the degree of opposition this proposal has generated, the City Council should have opted to go back to the drawing board and demand a fresh plan that sufficiently addresses everyone's concerns. We would support a smaller residential project for the plaza that would minimize the impact on surrounding areas.

The current project may fit well with the city's vision of "transit-oriented" developments, but it should not come at the expense of groups that will be forced to suffer any unintended consequences. If the project moves forward, El Cerrito is likely to face legal battles as well as street closures by Albany into and out of the plaza. In this case, the goal of transit-oriented development may not be worth the costs — for El Cerrito and Albany.

## Election must be near

CONTRA COSTA'S BOARD of Supervisors certainly has engaged in strange gyrations of late. Like a ricocheting bullet, the board has bounced from such pixedated matters as inserting itself into private business negotiations, considering whether they should call for the National Guard to come home from Iraq and, now, whether fast-food restaurants should be allowed here.

Hmmm. Such bombastic dabbling tells us that an election must be near. Why else would a board responsible for the operation of the county spend so much time talking about such peripheral matters at the expense of such core issues as the county's current financial difficulties?

The board's latest tour into the bizarre was conducted by Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier, who has suddenly noticed a soaring rate of obesity among children. To combat this 20-year trend, he seems to think the board should no longer allow fast-food restaurants to build in the unincorporated part of the county. Setting aside for a moment the obvious conflict of interest created by DeSaulnier being in the restaurant business, this idea is nothing short of weird.

The argument is that such restaurants cater to kids and offer some unhealthy foods on their menus, and that eating that food contributes to the obesity problems. Therefore, the county should limit their construction.

Yes, obesity in children is a serious problem and a diet of fast-food can contribute to it. But so can lack of exercise, which experts say has diminished among kids because of increased TV watching and video-game playing. Is the county ready to ban sales of video games and televisions in the unincorporated area? Maybe the board should just outlaw those activities altogether.

Or maybe it should listen to fellow Supervisor Gayle Uilkema and get its "financial house in order" before embarking on such tangents.

## YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

## Assembly

**Loni Hancock:** (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

## East Bay Regional Parks

**Jean Siri:** Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsiri@ebparks.org

## AC Transit

**Joe Wallace:** Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone: 510-891-7143; fax: 510-234-7689.

## Stege Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at [www.steagedist.district.ca.us](http://www.steagedist.district.ca.us).

## County Supervisors

**John Gioia:** (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

**Keith Carson:** (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

## NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

## City government

**ALBANY**  
City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Ave. 510-528-5710  
Mayor Allan Maris  
**City Council** — Meets at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays at the City Hall Council Chamber.  
**Community Development** — Includes planning, building and maintenance. 510-528-5760  
**Web site:** [www.albanyca.org](http://www.albanyca.org)

**EL CERRITO**  
City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. 510-

215-4300.  
Mayor Janet Abelson  
**City Council** — Meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Mondays in the Garden Room of the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. 510-215-4305.  
**Public Works** — Report problems with city trees and sidewalks, burned-out street lights, potholes and clogged storm drains. 510-215-4382.  
**Recycling Center** — 7501 Schmidt Lane. 510-215-4350.  
**Web site:** [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org)

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

## HAVEN'T WE ALREADY PAID FOR THESE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS?

I paid for this at the checkout counter.

Yes, I know, but we charge extra to get out of the store.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Dangerous spraying

I am very concerned to learn that the city of Albany is considering spraying the Memorial Park sports field with the herbicide glyphosate (Roundup) as part of replacing the turf there.

This involves dousing the area with large quantities of chemical sprayed from a boom, and is totally contrary to the city's own policy of herbicide and pesticide reduction.

It is not appropriate to apply this toxic chemical near locations where so many children are in attendance: the high school, the Friendship Club and the children's playground in the park. The neighbors also will be affected; glyphosate can drift many hundreds of feet from where it is applied.

This herbicide is known to cause lymphoma and other cancers, as well as many other health problems, including miscarriage. It remains in soil and treated plants for as long as three years, so the children who will use the sports field in the future will risk being exposed to the residue.

Monsanto, Roundup's manufacturer, was forced as the result of a lawsuit to retract its advertising claims that Roundup is biodegradable and "environmentally friendly."

The city should not take the risk of spraying this dangerous chemical around our children.

Martin Webb  
Albany

## Crushing financial weight

It is time for East Bay towns and cities to get out from under the crushing financial weight of our public employee pension plans. Why should public employees live better in retirement than the productive members of California's economy? Why should they be exempt from the sacrifices the overwhelming majority must make to prepare for old age?

And things are getting worse by the year.

A careful look at El Cerrito's 2005-06 budget report shows that nearly all the windfall money pouring into the general fund from the real estate boom is furiously being spent on upgrading city employee benefits and hiring additional city workers, with the same unsustainable levels of benefits.

Too bad, El Cerrito. Your taxes are skyrocketing, but you get no new infrastructure — just more harebrained commercial development schemes to puff up (maybe) the city coffers and drive up the levels of traffic and pollution so the town bureaucracy can hire more union employees to provide more "services" you were unaware you needed.

Greg Engargiola  
El Cerrito

## Needs open discussion

I find it ironic that a spokesman for Caruso Affiliated, the developer who wants to build a mall on the Albany waterfront, would charge that the Citizens' Planning Initiative to Protect Albany's Shoreline will result in community members being "shut out of the debate" (West County Times article, "Coalition fights waterfront development," Jan. 28).

Caruso's idea of open "debate" is apparently the invitation-only meetings he has held this past year in private homes, focused specifically on his plan to develop a mall on a portion of Golden Gate Fields' property.

By contrast, the express purpose of the citizens' initiative is to ensure that the

residents of Albany have the opportunity for open, public discussion to create a plan for all of their waterfront.

John M. Dyckman  
Albany

## Study initiative carefully

As an Albany resident and member of the Sierra Club, I obviously support and enjoy parks and open space. However, after a careful reading of the newly unveiled Citizens for East Shore Parks/Citizens for Albany Shoreline initiative (the Citizens' Planning Initiative to Protect Albany's Shoreline), there seems to be a major problem for Albany schools.

Including the new Measure A passed last November, the Albany Unified School District will receive approximately \$500,000 annually in parcel-tax assessments from Golden Gate Fields racetrack.

In the new CESP/CAS initiative, "Planning shall assume that a large portion of the Albany Waterfront District will be dedicated or acquired for public park, open space, and environmental restoration purposes."

The remaining portion available for development will be "located as close to the Interstate 80 freeway as possible" and not within 600 feet of the shoreline. Looking at a map, I estimate this remainder at about 50 percent of the existing property.

The developer of this small remainder — located right next to a roaring, polluted freeway — will then be obliged to build a "green, sustainable" development that somehow will generate \$1.2 million in revenue annually for the city, to replace that lost from the racetrack. That's unlikely, to say the least.

But there's worse to come: The developer will only pay parcel tax to the school district based on the square footage it owns. That means the schools will lose about 50 percent of the current \$500,000. That is, our schools will lose \$250,000 per year, every year, if this initiative passes.

I urge Albany residents to study this initiative very carefully. Our city and our schools are depending on you.

Trevor Grayling  
Albany

## Let residents decide

As a planning professional with 15 years of experience in public facilitation and outreach, I believe that the Citizens' Planning Initiative to Protect Albany's Shoreline will finally provide the open planning process the residents of Albany deserve and that is called for in the Albany General Plan.

The "community outreach" that has been done by Caruso Affiliated does not meet accepted professional standards for conducting an effective local community

process. These standards include official sponsorship by the city; meeting facilitation by a neutral third party (not a project proponent); conducting meetings that are open to everyone and held in public locations (not in private homes); and being open, unbiased questions to get public input (not requesting opinions on specific development plan).

The Albany public should get to decide the answer to the question: "What do we want to see on our waterfront?"

Andrea Gardin  
Albany

## National authority derives from individual consent

Recently, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors tried to pass a resolution calling for the return of the California National Guard from Iraq.

The audience filled the room, and especially veterans of foreign wars, spoke against the resolution.

While there are many reasons for ending (or continuing) the war, one objection floated was that it is not the place of local government to oppose the will of the national administration. From that idea I respectfully demur.

The authority of government must have the sanction and consent of the governed. Silence is acquiescence. The individual is the basis of the empire. The state derives all its power from the individual.

On a pragmatic or practical level, rather than a philosophical or idealized way of looking at the problem, let us remember that the budget for our local services — education, services to the poor and elderly, health care and other necessities — is being starved to death by the exorbitant cost of waging this imperial war.

I say, "Money for human services, not war." Bring our troops home.

Joan Bartulovich  
El Cerrito

## Secret wiretaps

As reported by the media, President Bush is defending his authorization of the secret wiretaps of individuals in the United States.

Bush's assertion he had "constitutional and congressional authority" to monitor communications between individuals within our country belie the facts.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court was established by Congress in 1978 to review requests for electronic eavesdropping inside the United States. The president thinks he has the right to sidestep this law?

It's been many years since I studied American government, but one of the lessons I learned well is that our Founders explicitly created a government with three branches so there would be a system of checks and balances to prevent abuses of power.

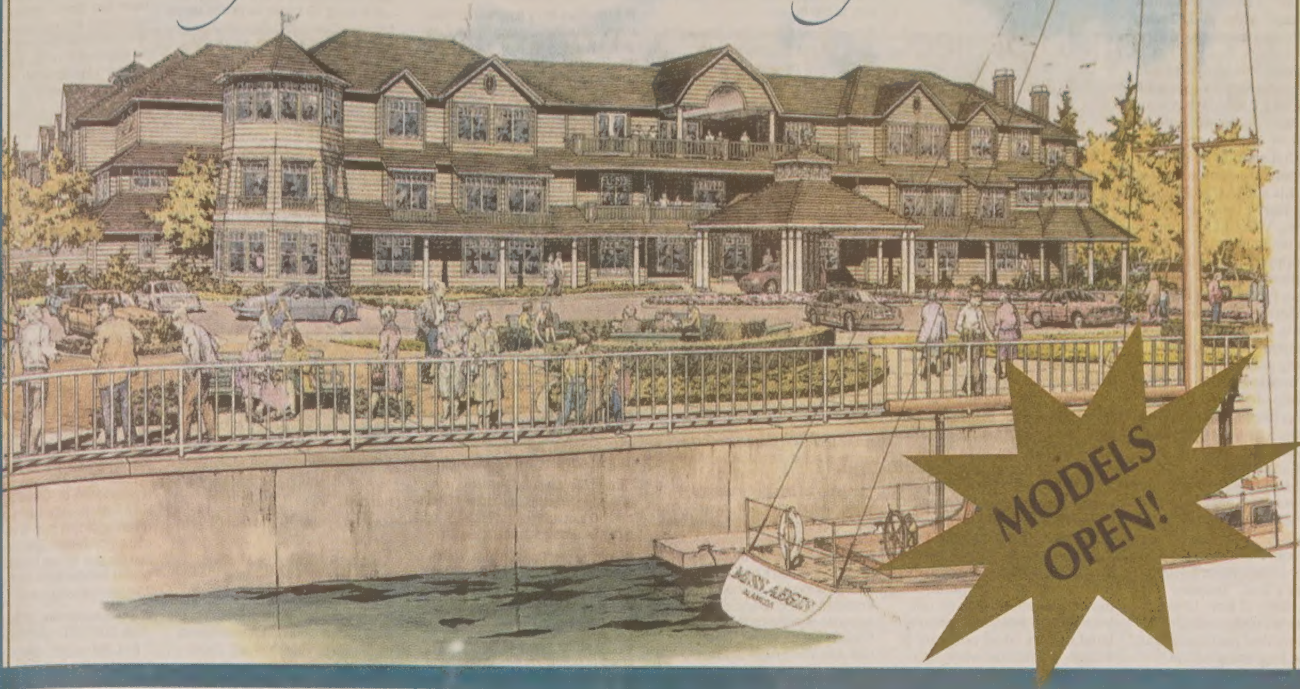
By secretly engaging in these domestic wiretaps without FISA approval, President Bush is subverting the constitutional based system of checks and balances — the very foundation of our democracy.

Bush tells us he's "mindful" of our liberties, but his actions speak louder than his words. Bush's secret authorization of illegal wiretaps and his subsequent justification of these wiretaps point to a frightening disregard for the constitutionally based limits to a president's authority rather than a genuine respect for civil liberties.

Selene Fabian  
El Cerrito

Editor's note: Some of these letters are reprinted from editions of the Contra Costa Times.

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# Two books tackle war through eyes of a child

"Argue, say argue," Mom said. "Fighting is whenever people hit each other, shoot each other. Kill each other." I said, "You know what I mean." Mom said, "I want you to think about the difference."

— From "Summer's End," by Audrey Coulombis

I RECENTLY READ two new children's books with the theme of war. I appreciate the fact that serious children's book writers are continuing to take on this subject, since it is an omnipresent topic in our daily news. What I liked about both the books was the evenhanded approach to this touchy and emotional topic.

For me, just hearing the words "Vietnam War" makes me want to cry. I find it wrenching to remember the young boys of my generation struggling to decide what to do. I had friends who ate huge amounts of eggs, in hopes of not passing the physical; or they practiced acting disturbed, so the Army wouldn't accept them.

And I had other friends who went to war and never came back. It was a sad and confusing time.

So, I was curious to read the Newbery Honor Award winner "Summer's End," because it tells the story of how 13-year-old Grace's family and life are affected by that particular war.

At the beginning of the book, Grace's brother burns his draft card and gets thrown out of the house by their father. The ensuing arguments and conflicting opinions vie with the family's love for each other, and the result is a beautifully presented look at patriotism, values, honesty and allegiance.

What I particularly value about this book is the lack of clear answers — because, of course, there are none. Rather, war forces us to look closely at our beliefs and those of others, and then make decisions that may affect us for the rest of our lives.

This is a difficult concept to accept, and "Summer's End" does a good job reminding us of the importance of making up our own minds. When Grandma tells Grace, "What counts now is what Collin wanted," Grace replies: "It's hard to be sure. ... No one agrees, and they all feel so



JULIE WINKELSTEIN  
At the Library

strongly they are right."

Her wise Grandma simply says: "That's why every one of these boys has to do what they feel is right for themselves alone."

The other book I read was Patricia Reilly Giff's "Willow Run," which is a sequel to her Newbery Honor book "Lily's Crossing." The main character in this book is also a young girl, called Margaret by her grandfather and Meggie by everyone else.

Giff weaves the story of Meggie's soldier brother Eddie, who has been missing in action since D-Day; her father and mother who want to do more for the war effort; and her German grandfather, who refuses to hide his German ways, even bringing Apfelstrudel to a party. Through her eyes, we see the boredom, anxiety and disruption caused by a temporary move to another town so her parents can work in a war-related factory. Most poignant is Meggie's constant worry her grandfather will be arrested as a spy because he has a German accent.

Meggie is simultaneously battling her irritation with her grandfather and her own small moral dilemmas as she tries to understand words like courage and fear. Unlike Coulombis, Giff introduces us only to those young men who go and fight, but even within those, we meet one who says: "When this is over, I'm going to spend my days making sure wars like this never happen again."

When Meggie asks how, his words perfectly sum up what all of us, no matter which wars we do or don't support, can agree on: "That's what we all have to figure out. ... Every one of us."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at [jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org](mailto:jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org) or at the Albany Library, 510-526-3720, Ext. 17.

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

### Albany Library

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510-526-3720 or [www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org)

**Hours:** Monday, noon to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, closed; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ The library has started a new program, "Movie Wednesdays for Teens." This program is aimed at middle- and high-schoolers. Please note that some of the films in this series are rated PG-13, and may not be suitable for younger children. Movie Wednesdays for Teens takes place the first Wednesday of each month. All films will be shown in the Edith Stone Room. They start at 5 p.m. and finish up by 7:15 p.m. at the latest. To find out the titles of the films planned, visit the Teen Area at the Albany Library or contact Teen Services Librarian Julia Witwer at Ext. 20.

■ The library will present a drop-in poetry-writing workshop Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m., led by Alison Sevak, an Albany poet and teacher. The event will be held in the Edith Stone Room. Cookies will be served. Questions? Call Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

■ Children will have an opportunity to create a colorful collage valentine from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11. Using an array of materials — fabric, ribbon, yarn and more — and lots of art supplies, participants will create one-of-a-kind valentines. This workshop will be led by Adria McCuaig, a teacher, tutor and art instructor. The workshop will be held in the Edith Stone Room, and is for all ages. No registration is required. Cookies will be served. Questions? Call Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

■ Join a great books discussion group that meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 1-2 p.m. The theme is "Parent and Child Anthology," available from Great Books Foundation ([www.greatbooks.org](http://www.greatbooks.org); 800-222-5870). February's book is "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini (any edition). For more information, contact Ronnie Davis at Ext. 16 or [rdavis@aclibrary.org](mailto:rdavis@aclibrary.org)

■ The library offers free drop-in homework help for students in third

through fifth grades. The Homework Center is open Mondays and Thursdays (except county holidays), from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Emphasis is placed on math and writing skills. No registration is required. For more information, call Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17 or e-mail [jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org](mailto:jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org).

■ Preschool story time will be held every Saturday morning in the Edith Stone Room at 11 a.m. through Feb. 18. This 30-minute drop-in event is for 3- to 5-year-olds, and it includes stories, songs, books and a simple craft. No registration required. Questions? Call Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

■ Weekly singalongs are held Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. by Dale Allen Boland. The singalongs are free and for all ages. No registration is required. For information, contact Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

■ Drop-in knitting groups for all ages are held Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. Work on your own project or make pet blankets and children's hats for victims of recent disasters. Instructions, yarn and needles are provided for library projects. No registration is necessary. For more information, contact Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

### El Cerrito Library

6510 Stockton Ave.  
510-526-7512 or [www.cccilb.org](http://www.cccilb.org)

**Hours:** Monday and Tuesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, closed; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ Join James Dalessandro, author of "1906," the story of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, for a talk and video presentation on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m.

■ The winter series of lap-sit story times (formerly known as babytime and toddler time) will continue through Feb. 16. These story times, which meet Thursdays at 10:15 and 11 a.m., are for babies and toddlers up to age 3 and their caregivers. Each meeting lasts about 20 minutes, and includes songs, bounces, games and finger plays in addition to the stories. No registration is required.

■ Children of all ages and their families are invited to join in singing funny songs with performer Bonnie Lockhart in "Songs and Music Games

from Around the World" on Saturday, Feb. 18 at 11 a.m.

■ Children in grades 1-6 are invited to read books and earn prizes by participating in the library's "I Love to Read" club this winter. To participate in the club, each child needs to pick up a reading record at the library, and use it to list 10 books he or she reads between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28. The reading records can be returned to the library any time during February for display on the library's bulletin board. Each finisher will receive a paperback book, a bookmark and two Hershey's Kisses.

■ Children ages 3 and up and their families are invited to a series of Monday-evening family story times through Feb. 13. Each of the meetings, which will include songs and finger plays as well as stories, will begin at 7 p.m. and last about a half-hour. The themes for the remaining story times will be "Wild Bears!" on Feb. 6 and "Valentine's Day Stories" on Feb. 13.

■ Readers Anonymous, the library's book club, meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome. Following are the upcoming book selections:

Feb. 28 — "Love in the Time of Cholera" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
March 28 — "Queen of Dreams" by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

April 25 — "The Great Fire" by Shirley Hazzard

May 23 — "Stones for Ibarra" by Harriet Doerr

June 27 — "Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson

■ If you would like to learn about the Internet or basic word processing, the library offers hourlong appointments on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Its Internet docents will help you learn as much or as little as you would like. Call the library to make an appointment.

### Kensington Library

61 Arlington Ave.  
510-524-3043 or [www.cccilb.org](http://www.cccilb.org)

**Hours:** Monday and Tuesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, closed; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ The library will host the second in

a free five-part reading and discussion series called "Let's Talk Jewish Literature — Identity, Immigration" on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m. The series explores literature and culture through led discussions of contemporary classic books on the theme between two Worlds: Stories of transience and Homecoming by Dr. Naomi Seidman of the State Theological Union, the will be on the book "Mr. Sam Planet" by Saul Bellow.

■ Maggie Morley and colleagues present a night of poetry on Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. An open house.

■ A Valentine's Day crafts time will be held Tuesday, Feb. 7 from 7 to 7:30 p.m. All ages welcome.

■ Children ages 5 and older learn how to become a writer from the Middle Ages and are granted a balloon sword, prepare them to participate in a comedy routine, during a Knight on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.

■ A special annual celebration of Seuss' birthday will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m. at the Kensington Library, on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 11 a.m. The party will dramatize of "Green Eggs and Ham," games with prizes, green eggs and ham to eat, and the popularity of this event. A number of free tickets are required and available starting Feb. 13. All ages are welcome.

■ The next meeting of the book club will be Monday, Feb. 7 p.m. February's selection is "The Dive From Claremont" by Peter. Copies of this novel will be on reserve at the library. Book meetings are held on the last day of every month at the library.

■ Family story times are held on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. All ages welcome.

— Continued

Library activity items may be mailed to [jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org](mailto:jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org)

## EL CERRITO/KENSINGTON SCHOOL NOTES

### El Cerrito High School

**PASTA FUND-RAISER:** A dinner to benefit the El Cerrito High School girls soccer team will be held Saturday at the Kensington Youth Hut. It will feature homemade sauces prepared by Jamal Jawad, who has a senior daughter, Jenya, on the varsity team. Tickets are \$12 each or four for \$40. For more information, call 510-237-3847 or 510-526-4645.

**INFORMATION NIGHT:** Information night for parents and students thinking of attending ECHS will be held Wednesday, Feb. 7 p.m. Come to the front gate, and you will be directed in. Refreshments will be served. The school is at 540 Ashbury Ave.

**SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL:** ECHS students are invited to attend the Oregon Shakespeare Festival from March 2-5 (possible alternative date is March 9). The trip includes a three-night stay in a four-star hotel in downtown Ashland, Ore. with breakfast included; four plays (only one is a Shakespeare play); backstage tours; acting workshops; and bus ride there and back. For information, call Rich Cohen at 510-525-0234 and ask for room 7B.

**YOSHI'S EVENT:** An Evening at Yoshi's on Monday features two shows: the El Cerrito High School jazz bands and

Portola Middle School jazz ensemble will perform at 8 p.m.; the El Cerrito High School jazz bands at 10 p.m. Ticket price is \$10 per person, per show. Seating is first come, first served. Yoshi's is located at Jack London Square, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. Each show will run about 1 hour and 15 minutes. You can buy tickets in person or call 510-238-9200. For more information, call Shoko at 510-236-5736.

**SUMMER SCHOOL:** Summer school forms are now available in the main office (room 1) and Counselors Office (room 49). Students who need to make up credits or repeat a course for a better grade for college should attend. You only need to fill out the front page of the application. Your counselor will fill out the back page for the course or courses that you need. The emergency information must be completely filled out, and the form will not be accepted without a parent's signature. Summer school forms are due to counselors by Feb. 17.

**PAGETURNERS:** Join the Pageturners book club on Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. in Room 33 to discuss "Triangle: The Fire That Changed America" by David Von Drehle.

See EL CERRITO, Page A9

## ALBANY SCHOOL NOTES

### Albany High School

**SWIM SIGN-UPS:** If you are interested in joining the swim team this year, sign up with Coach Lau-Seim so that you're receiving team e-mails. If you have questions, stop by Room 218.

**FUTURE FOCUS:** Future Focus contains college information, volunteer opportunities, summer and educational opportunities, and career news. Future Focus is compiled by AHS Junior Eva Wu and career coordinator Becca Burns, and is available on the AHS Web site, [www.albany.k12.ca.us/ahs](http://www.albany.k12.ca.us/ahs). For more information on any of these opportunities, see Ms. Burns in the counseling office.

**GRADUATION ORDERS:** All graduation orders sent to Jostens through Jan. 15 have been placed, and new brochures are arriving at the main office. The rep will arrange a date to take orders from students in March or orders can be mailed to the Jostens rep on the flyer at any time. Please be sure to have your order in by March 15.

**SITE COUNCIL:** Because of a recent resignation, the site council needs a new member. The site council is a decision-making body of parents, administrators, teachers and students that meets monthly to review school programs. The SSC develops a site

plan that recommends ways state School Improvement funds, around \$75,000 annually, are a parent who would like to come a part of the site council, contact the council chairperson, Gonzales, at [rosognza@albany.k12.ca.us](mailto:rosognza@albany.k12.ca.us).

**EXIT EXAM:** The exit exam will be administered on Tuesday, Feb. 7, Wednesday, Feb. 8, at all 10th graders, approximately 35 per cent of a handful of seniors, a total of 100 students. The exam will be testing students, including the theater, multi-purpose room, the Building main hall and side hall. One classroom with computers are available to help with the exam, please e-mail Doug gawa at [kagawa@ahs.com](mailto:kagawa@ahs.com). The exam will begin at 8 a.m. most students will be finished noon. Students have the entire day to complete the exam. The two work shifts, 8-10 and 10-12. Please designate the shift you will be working on. The work will primarily involve ing out and collecting the exam you can work only an hour or ally use most of the help from distribute all of the testing materials.

See ALBANY, Page A9

## BUSINESS NAME FILINGS

The following individuals or corporations filed fictitious-business-name statements in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The Journal makes every effort to ensure accuracy but cannot be held responsible if there are errors or omissions in this list. The Journal gathers information from fictitious-business-name filings with the counties; not all listings are new businesses. These listings are a public service and do not satisfy requirements that business owners advertise legal no-

tices of their business names.

### Albany

**Cal Realty,** Michael Khouri, 903 Ventura Ave.  
**Hair Dynamics,** Dana Chen, 1309 Solano Ave.  
**Royal Cab of Berkeley, Albany & Kensington,** Ehsan Chaman, 1150 Washington Ave., Suite A

### El Cerrito

**First Impressions & Design,** Brenda Odle, 1755 Arlington Blvd.  
**Hardy Policy Consulting,** Kelly Hardy, 848 Pomona Ave.  
**Rare Earth Landscape Inc.,** Stephen Rudy, 702 Hancock Way

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# Your East Bay Auto Experts

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**Ask the expert:** Why's it important to have the 30,000, 60,000 or 90,000 mile maintenance services done on my car?

**Answer:** Most car owners know that the engine oil should be changed periodically but not many realize other fluids require replacement every so often.

This is an important part of your cars maintenance. The 30,000, 60,000 and 90,000 mile services encompass fluid replacements along with air filter, cabin filter and spark plug replacement. Some new cars come from the factory with synthetic fluids which last longer but still require replacement. Servicing the brake, transmission and engine cooling systems by replacing fluid every 30,000 miles prevents system breakdowns.

A car with bad brake fluid will continue to function but poorly. Brake fluid is hygroscopic which means it absorbs moisture from the air. When there is high moisture content in brake fluid it's considered bad. Bad brake fluid can cause brake pedal fade and overheating of the brake assemblies creating the need for additional component replacement. Extremely bad brake fluid can cause brake failure on hard downhill braking.

Engine coolant becomes acidic if not replaced every 3 years. This acidity eats away at your engine from the inside, corroding aluminum cylinder heads and thermostat housings. In addition expired engine coolant doesn't efficiently cool the engine and in cold climates would freeze.

Transmission fluid in my opinion should be changed every 2 years or 20,000 miles. Especially considering the type of driving we do here in the Bay Area. Stop and go, short trips and hill driving put a strain on the transmission. If you're driving around with dirty, thick and possibly low


transmission fluid this creates friction inside the transmission causing it to work harder and the engine to use more gasoline. Most major maintenance services advise a transmission drain and fill. At our shop we take it another step and actually flush the transmission. This means we hook the transmission lines up to a machine which pumps fresh fluid into the transmission until clean fluid comes out the other end of the transmission. Using this method all the transmission fluid gets changed including the fluid in the torque converter—not just the fluid in the pan. This is also a good way to clean out debris.

Clean air filters help fuel consumption. A worn set of spark plugs not only causes the engine to run bad but adversely effects fuel efficiency. Cabin pollen filters should be changed every 10,000 miles in this area. I have never seen one that didn't need replacement after 10,000 miles of use. Fluid flushes are the main reason to have the 30,000, 60,000 and 90,000 Mile services done. These services are preventative maintenance for all the systems in your car and will save you money in the long run. I hope this answers some of the questions you have about servicing your vehicle.

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# Voters ask, didn't we already pay for these?

■ Scramble for local funds makes progress incremental

By Mike Adamick  
STAFF WRITER

Approve a toll hike and there'll be money for a fourth bore through the Caldecott Tunnel.

Approve a new sales tax and there'll be money for widening Highway 4.

Approve a new statewide transportation bond and there'll be money to unspool the interchange between Interstates 80 and 680 in Fairfield.

It seems every time the idea of a new tax, toll or bond is broached, voters are asked to dig into their wallets one more time to fix major traffic jams.

"I think people have that feeling of, 'Haven't we paid for this before?'" said Kris Hunt of the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association.

The short answer is yes ... and no, transportation officials say. It used to be that large public works projects were paid for by the state and federal governments.

Now, locals must front the bulk of the bill, said Bob McCleary, executive director of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, which plans and funds road projects in the county.

"Large projects are difficult to fund," he said. "It takes multiple sources."

The Caldecott Tunnel is a prime example.

For years, transportation officials and the motoring public have pushed for a fourth bore for the tunnel, hoping to clear up the congestion brought on by having only three bores.

The cost is expected to fall in the range of \$350 to \$380 million

**B**AY AREA VOTERS have approved a \$1 toll hike (Regional Measure 2) and Contra Costa and Alameda counties have voter-approved half-cent sales taxes to pay for road projects. A new statewide transportation bond could be next. Taxpayer groups wonder when enough is enough, while transportation officials say there's no other way to pay for the work.

## CALDECOTT TUNNEL

Build a fourth bore



- **COST:** Between \$350 million to \$380 million
- **REGIONAL MEASURE 2:** \$50 million
- **SALES TAX:** \$125 million
- **PROPOSED BOND:** \$140 million
- **SHORTFALL:** Between \$35 million and \$65 million

— though engineering work is still under way and the total cost could be lower or higher.

The state doesn't have the money to pay for it, in part because statewide road funds were raided to balance the budget. Those raids have now stopped and gas taxes are again going to road projects, but counties find themselves battling for a share of roughly \$210 million for new projects — throughout the entire state, McCleary said.

So transportation officials have been forced to call on local tax and toll payers to help foot the bill.

Voters approved Regional Measure 2 in 2003 to raise bridge tolls by \$1 to fund transportation projects throughout the nine-county Bay Area — with the Caldecott Tunnel receiving a \$50 million slice of the pie.

In 2004, Contra Costa County voters approved a half-cent sales tax known as Measure J to fund road and transit work. The Caldecott Tunnel receives \$125 million from that source.

Finally, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has a proposal

## HIGHWAY 4

Widen from four to eight lanes and widen interchanges



- **COST:** Roughly \$335 million
- **REGIONAL MEASURE 2:** No money
- **SALES TAX:** \$125 million
- **PROPOSED BOND:** \$60 million
- **SHORTFALL:** About \$60 million (Other state funding has been found to fill most holes.)

for a transportation bond. The Caldecott Tunnel would receive about \$140 million if it's approved.

That still leaves the project about \$140 million short, McCleary said. Major construction is not expected to begin until 2009, so officials are hopeful they can find the money before then.

Highway 4 provides another example.

The toll hike provided no money to widen the thoroughfare, but the half-cent sales tax generated \$125 million. Combined with state funds and some fancy financial maneuvers in the bond market, officials have found almost enough money to widen the freeway to eight lanes from Pittsburg to Antioch.

Yet, a \$60 million hole remains. The governor's bond plan sets aside \$60 million for the project — just enough to fill the hole.

"We call these Christmas tree projects because they put together these little ornaments to make a bond or a tax more attractive to people," Hunt said.

Taxpayers argue the state has too many debts and must fig-

## I-80/680

Build merging and truck lanes to free up flow in Fairfield



- **COST:** Almost \$1 billion
- **REGIONAL MEASURE 2:** \$100 million
- **PROPOSED BOND:** \$300 million
- **SHORTFALL:** Almost \$600 million (Solano County is considering a sales tax)

ure out a way to pay them down before approving another massive bond.

"We've already been paying gas taxes that are supposed to pay for these in the first place, but it gets siphoned off into the general fund," said Ken Hambrick of the Alliance for Contra Costa Taxpayers.

Transportation officials argue there is no other way to build large projects without the help of local taxpayers, because the state and federal governments simply aren't picking up the tab anymore.

Most of the money will be raised locally, with any state or federal money ready to fill holes, such as the \$60 million hole for Highway 4, McCleary said.

"What the governor's plan does is put on the table what we would need to finish it," he said.

The Legislature plans to convene a committee to hash out a compromise between the governor's bond proposal and similar proposals in the Senate and Assembly. Voters could be asked to approve new bonds this summer or in November.

## Albany

FROM PAGE A6

**SCIENCE BOWL:** Science Bowl Team #1 prevailed in the tournament finals, beating Silicon Valley teams for first place and becoming the only team to reach the finals with no losses. Next stop — Washington D.C. for the national finals. Congratulations to team captain Bing Xia, Zi Wang, Jackie Quinn, Andrey Polityayev and Ian Allen.

### Albany Middle School

**SPELLING BEE CHAMP:** Congratulations to spelling bee champ, seventh-grader Audrey Ronningen, who will participate in the countywide bee later this month. Congratulations also to second-place winner and eighth-grade champ Dina Fu, third-place winner and eighth-grader Zoe Pollack, and sixth-grade champ Alan Wang. Special thanks go to teachers Fran Sheppard, Joanna Pace and parent coordinator Kristine Gower for helping to organize the bee.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL:** Congratulations to the AMS team on an excellent season, and thanks to coaches Deborah Brill, sixth grade; Sara Backowski, seventh grade; and Marty Place, eighth grade.

**SCHOOL DANCE:** Next school dance is Feb. 10, 7-9 p.m. The dance is a reward and not a right. Student behavior and attendance must meet school standards during the second quarter. This means students have no unserved detentions, no suspensions, and three or fewer unexcused tardies to one class. Students with four unexcused tardies are not eligible to attend, and ineligible students will receive notification by mail.

**STRING ENSEMBLE:** The AMS string ensemble is recruiting players for next season. The class meets Tuesdays, 3:25 to 4:45. It will need violinists, violists, cellists and double bass players. Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders who have studied at least two years on their bowed instrument are invited to audition. Tuition is \$250 per year of weekly instruction and rehearsal. Limited tuition assistance available through the Albany Music Fund. Contact Denise Mehoich at 415-456-6101 for audition requirements and information regarding audition date, usually held the first Tuesday in September. First rehearsal is on the second Tuesday in September. One-year commitment.

**BASKETBALL AWARD:** Congratulations to the seventh grade girls basketball team for winning the sportsmanship award for the tournament during the week of Jan. 23.

### Cornell Elementary

**OPEN ENROLLMENT:** During March, par-

ents of current Albany students out an open enrollment form. Parents who wish to transfer their child to another Albany school must complete this form. Parents who wish to transfer their child to another Albany school must complete this form. Parents who wish to transfer their child to another Albany school must complete this form.

**SPANISH CLASS:** An after-school Spanish class for elementary school students is being offered. The class is held on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the PTA file or e-mail Karen at kbshares@gmail.com.

### Marin Elementary

**SCIENCE FESTIVAL:** The festival is scheduled for Feb. 14 and Saturday, March 11. Tickets are \$5. For more information, contact Teresa Barnett at 415-456-6101 or Teresa.Barnett@alameda.k12.ca.us.

**BOOK FAIR:** The school is having a book fair on Monday, Feb. 13, from 4 to 6 p.m. The fair will feature books for sale at a discount. For more information, contact Karen at kbshares@gmail.com.

**INFORMATION NIGHT:** The school is having an information night on Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. The night will provide information about the school and its programs. For more information, contact Karen at kbshares@gmail.com.

**HUNDRATHON:** This year's 100th day of school is on Monday, Feb. 13. The school is having a hundred-themed day. For more information, contact Karen at kbshares@gmail.com.

**INFORMATION NIGHT:** The school is having an information night on Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. The night will provide information about the school and its programs. For more information, contact Karen at kbshares@gmail.com.

**PARENT DISCUSSION:** The Education Committee is holding a parent discussion on Thursday, Feb. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. The discussion will be facilitated by Kristine Gower. For more information, contact Karen at kbshares@gmail.com.

**OPEN ENROLLMENT:** During March, parents of current Albany students out an open enrollment form. Parents who wish to transfer their child to another Albany school must complete this form. Parents who wish to transfer their child to another Albany school must complete this form.

**NOONTIME CHESS:** The school is having a noontime chess program. The program is held on Wednesdays from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. For more information, contact Karen at kbshares@gmail.com.

**GLASS MOSAIC:** The school is having a glass mosaic project. The project is a collaboration between the school and the community. For more information, contact Karen at kbshares@gmail.com.

**Ocean View Elementary**

**SCHOOL AGE WORKSHOP:** The school is having a school age workshop. The workshop is for students aged 5 to 12. For more information, contact Karen at kbshares@gmail.com.

**ICE CREAM SALES:** The school is having ice cream sales. The sales are on Wednesdays from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. For more information, contact Karen at kbshares@gmail.com.

**Education funders**

**SCHOOLS SURVEY:** The school is having a schools survey. The survey is for parents and teachers. For more information, contact Karen at kbshares@gmail.com.

**Albany School of the Arts**

**Staff writers George Kelly and Kelli Phillips contributed to this article. Reach Karl Fischer at 510-262-2728 or kfischer@cttimes.com.**

## Rogers

FROM PAGE A1

He spent a decade helping young entrepreneurs start their careers at Cal's Haas School of Business. His wife, Julie Rogers, volunteered for years on the El Cerrito planning commission. They raised three kids but still found regular time for civic functions.

"I had the sense he was getting satisfaction from returning to El Cerrito," said John Gioia, president of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and a high school pal. "Paul ... believed in giving back to the community."

### ONLINE

■ Sign a guestbook for Paul Rogers and Julie Wycoff Rogers at [ContraCostaTimes.com](http://ContraCostaTimes.com). The Journal will publish excerpts.

But their brutal deaths hardly reflected the altruism of their lives.

Both were stabbed at a crime scene befitting a horror movie early Tuesday after a knife-wielding assailant — police say Julie Rogers' brother — smashed through the front window and attacked the slumbering couple.

"He forced his way into the residence with a large knife," El Cerrito police Cmdr. Gary Priebe said. "The husband and wife were in the master bedroom. The husband died in the bedroom. The wife ... was (found) down some steps, by the pool in the back yard."

El Cerrito police were expected to ask the Contra Costa district attorney Thursday to charge Julie

Rogers' brother Edward Wycoff on two counts of murder. The district attorney's office had not received the request as of the Journal's deadline Thursday morning.

Wycoff, 37, is being held without bail at the Contra Costa County jail in Martinez, said El Cerrito Police Commander Gary Priebe.

El Cerrito police plan to hold a news conference on the case this morning.

Police searched the Citrus Heights home of the suspect as well as the rented home on the 1400 block of Rifle Range Road in El Cerrito where the victims were attacked, Priebe said.

"I think everybody is just devastated," said Denise Sangster, a neighbor who helped set up a memorial fund for the Rogers children. "What a horrific thing to happen, just horrific. To happen when your children are in the same home is just unspeakable."

The couple's 15-year-old son called 911 at 4:24 a.m. to report the attack, who was still in the house, police said. Officers apparently arrived minutes after the suspect fled, investigators said.

Wycoff turned up later that morning at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Roseville, near Sacramento, seeking treatment for injuries he told emergency room workers he received from a motorcycle crash.

Hospital officials, alerted by police to be on the lookout, realized Wycoff was wanted and reported him. Roseville police arrested Wycoff on suspicion of murder. His injuries are not life-threatening, authorities said.

Explanations for the attack remained imprecise during the early

## MEMORIAL FUND

Residents have set up a memorial fund for the Paul Rogers' and Julie Wycoff Rogers' three children at the El Cerrito branch of Mechanics Bank. Checks can be sent to 9996 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 94530.

The account number for the Rogers Family Memorial fund is 4086-7846 and the bank routing number is 1211-02036. Call 510-558-2300 for more information.

A memorial service is expected to be scheduled by Monday. Information will be posted at [rmbcal.com](http://rmbcal.com).

investigation, as did details of the bedlam that erupted inside the house when, police say, Wycoff smashed through a plate-glass window beside the front door and ran into the master bedroom.

An ongoing feud over the handling of family affairs likely precipitated the attack, investigators said, though what triggered it remains unclear.

"This is beyond stunning," neighbor Sewellyn Kaplan said. "People sometimes become injured to violence, but not when it's someone you know."

The Rogers family rented the house on Rifle Range Road while remodeling their home on Bel View Court, neighbors said. The boy and his 12-year-old sister were home during the attack. Neither was injured, police said. The two were placed with relatives and provided emergency counseling.

The couple's third child, a teenage son, was not at home during the attack.

Paul Rogers appears to have

been in bed when he was fatally wounded with a large knife, which was found at the scene, police said. Julie Rogers died Tuesday afternoon at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.

Records show Wycoff is a licensed security guard who works in the Sacramento area. El Cerrito detectives went to Roseville on Tuesday morning to pick him up, Priebe said.

Wycoff was distant from brother-in-law Paul Rogers, said Ross Meador, Rogers' partner at their El Cerrito law firm on Stockton Avenue.

"I've known Paul for 23 years and I have never even met (Wycoff)," said Meador. "He was somewhat distant from the family."

Paul Rogers, 48, taught a course about entrepreneurship at UC Berkeley and worked with a small-business incubator at the university, said fellow business professor Jerry Engel.

Rogers was a quiet man who loved travel, photography, skiing and backpacking, Engel said. His interest in technology companies and appreciation for entrepreneurship and new business ideas made him popular with students.

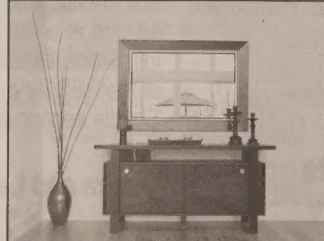
"He was a very popular lecturer. He was kind and supportive," Engel said. "And he was a real East Bay person, that was part of his identity."

Rogers spent most of his career with prestigious San Francisco law firms. In 2003, he co-founded a business that specializes in business counseling and legal needs of entrepreneurs.

Julie Rogers, 47, had a long career behind the scenes in local politics, where she sat on the El Cer-

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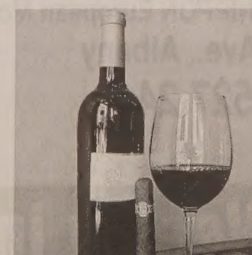
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# Waterfront

PAGE A1

The goal of the initiative "is to open up community planning to the public," said Robert Cheasty, the president of Citizens for East Shore. "For the whole waterfront, the part Caruso wants to see is the waterfront." The Caruso Affiliated is planning to presentations to three city commissions beginning next week. Cheasty meanwhile will give a presentation about the initiative at 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday at the Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Ave.

## IF YOU GO:

- **WHAT:** Albany City Council meeting
- **WHEN:** 8 p.m. Monday
- **WHERE:** Council chamber, 1000 San Pablo Ave. Meetings are also televised live on Albany public access channel 33.
- **WHAT:** Presentation about a waterfront initiative by Robert Cheasty, the president of Citizens for East Shore Parks
- **WHEN:** 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Wednesday
- **WHERE:** Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Ave.
- **INFORMATION:** Call 510-558-9639 or visit [albanyshoreline.org](http://albanyshoreline.org).

Parks, the Sierra Club, the Albany Chamber of Commerce, the city's waterfront committee, the city's park and recreation commission, the Albany library board and the owner of the racetrack property. The Albany school district board would appoint two committee members.

The appointments would not be required to be members of the groups selecting them.

Norman La Force, the chair of the Sierra Club's East Bay public lands committee and author of the initiative, disagreed that it would squelch debate.

He also believes the track will eventually close unless Magna is able to add casino gambling, which it failed to do in 2004 through a state initiative.

"This is intended to do what people have asked for," La Force said, "which is plan for the entire waterfront in one piece and protect the shoreline for the people of Albany."

"It gives ample opportunities to people who want development to talk about what development they want and locating it within the portions of the area that would be appropriate."

The city's waterfront committee recommended last fall that the city create its own plan for the waterfront. However, the council did not act on it.

Albany Vice Mayor Farid Javandel said he understood the estimated cost for the planning process under the proposed initiative is between \$200,000 and \$500,000.

"It's not a trivial amount of money," Javandel said. "Not that it might not be a good expenditure, but in terms of planning for the city financially, we need to be careful throwing big dollar amounts out there without identifying a method of paying for it."

Councilman Robert Good said he supported the idea of the initiative but questioned how legally viable the moratorium on development approvals would be.

"I think the idea to have another proposal so people have a reasonable alternative to what Caruso proposes is a very good idea," Good said. "A moratorium is a good idea, but I would be surprised if it were permitted to happen. If it does, so much the better."

# Condo

FROM PAGE A1

"Lopping off one floor is certainly an improvement," said Charles Burress, the co-chair of the Behrens Neighborhood Association, one of four groups that appealed the planning commission's approval of the project to the council. "But considering how vastly oversized the project was, I don't think it's enough."

The appellants also included the North Albany Neighborhood Association, the Albany school district and the Albany city government. The project will require a new plan reflecting the changes as well as approval by the El Cerrito Design Review Board to go forward, said planning manager Jennifer Carman.

Albany Vice Mayor Farid Javandel said the revisions may have come closer to making the plan acceptable to his city.

"It's going to be tough to make everybody happy," Javandel said. "At least what we've seen tonight is some decent compromises in that direction."

It remains to be seen whether the city will pursue legal action over the development.

It's also unclear whether Albany will pursue street closures. Last week, the city's traffic and safety commission recommended that the city close off the four streets leading to the shopping center. An independent consultant had recommended closing only three streets in order to reduce potential gridlock at certain intersections that a fourth closure would create.

The street closures are in part

intended to mitigate the traffic in the area, which has increased 19 percent since the opening of Trader Joe's and Copelands, according to Albany officials.

Mayor Pro Tem Letitia Moore said the layout at the plaza — widely panned by residents — actually makes the area safer for pedestrians because it forces vehicles to slow down.

"I don't think circulation is so bad that we need to stop development at the plaza," Moore said.

Mayor Janet Abelson said the real traffic problem is up the street on Brighton Avenue where parents drop off and pick up their children at Albany Middle School.

"I don't think it's the responsibility of this project to mitigate that traffic," said Abelson, who encouraged the school district to have more children walk to and from school.

Jones called the Albany street closure threats unprofessional, and said the city's leaders should have made more of an effort to discuss their concerns with El Cerrito. But he disagreed with his colleagues about traffic circulation, saying it needed to be better at the retail center for the new development to be acceptable.

The Albany school district also remains concerned about the impact of traffic as well as an increase in noise and its effects on nearby Cougar Field.

"I think the school board will probably look at this in closed session to determine whether or not to participate in any legal action," Albany's school district Superintendent Willie Wong said.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or e-mail [alopez1@cctimes.com](mailto:alopez1@cctimes.com).

# Concert held to benefit ailing boy

Performers from Japan and Berkeley played selections on traditional Japanese instruments Saturday at Ocean View Elementary School for what was billed as the first "pokkapoka" or "kind heart" concert in the United States, held to raise awareness of severe myoclonic epilepsy.

Ten-year-old Kiyonori Hayashi, the youngest son of Hiroaki and Yuko Hayashi, is a student at Ocean View who suffers from the debilitating nervous disorder, which results in lengthy seizures that can be caused by even mild stimulation and can be controlled only with injections. The condition is accompanied by progressive cognitive decline.



Hayashi



EDDIE LEDESMA/TIMES

MEMBERS of Genyukai Berkeley, front, and the Kindenryu of Kansai, Japan, rear, perform at a "pokkapoka," or "kind heart," benefit concert at Ocean View Elementary School in Albany on Saturday.

The Hayashis, who are here from Osaka, Japan, while Hiroaki Hayashi is a visiting professor at UC Berkeley, have worked to publicize the condition, first in Japan and now in the United States.

Sunday's concert included readings of poetry, singalongs and a performance by a student dance group and donations were accepted to fund research.

— Chris Treadway

# Shops

FROM PAGE A1

"I was best known for Pez," she said. "Pez changed my life." She's so confident in the business and location that she's selling her house in New York and moving to the Bay Area.

Last week, the 5,000-square-foot space held a few comfy couches, a couple of lamps and some bobble-head dolls, but little else. It was awaiting arrival of Fox's collectibles, which were being transported from New York in three trucks.

She named the business Central Perk because of its location. But for many it will also bring to mind the cafe where actress Jennifer Aniston and the rest of the "Friends" cast hung out.

Fox said hers is not the first business to be named Central Perk but because of its location at Central Avenue, she believes it's the most appropriate.

"I at least have a reason for it," she said.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or e-mail [alopez1@cctimes.com](mailto:alopez1@cctimes.com).

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# Portola

FROM PAGE A1

The school board has hired another geological engineering firm, Alan Kropp & Associates of Berkeley, to review the 22 campuses. District administrators have refused to release these reports.

However, according to records obtained by The Journal last year, Portola lies in an area that has crept four to six inches over the past 55 years.

A March 2005 letter from Kropp to the district says that, "The site is not within an Alquist Priolo earthquake fault hazard zone, and we judge that the potential for fault rupture is low. We anticipate that potentially expansive soils may exist throughout the site, as they are common in this area."

Expansive soils expand and contract based on moisture content. The movement can cause

significant damage to buildings and pavement, deforming foundations and cracking walls.

To receive state hardship funds to rebuild a school, a district must show "imminent threat to the health and safety of the pupils," according to the office of construction's Schools Facility Handbook.

Savidge said the building represents a serious threat to students in the case of a severe earthquake, but without seismic activity, is considered relatively stable.

"It's no more unsafe than it's ever been," Savidge said.

The district had planned to renovate the three-story, 25,000-square-foot main building and erect a new 9,800-square-foot multi-purpose room. The gym would have been upgraded, and an elevator installed. The cost was projected at \$40 million.

New tentative architecture designs by Arthur Tam & Associates put classrooms on the flat

2-acre playground downhill from the current building. Playfields would occupy an uphill terrace.

Regardless, the school's renovation has been pushed back by 21 months, Savidge said last week to the district's bond oversight committee meeting. The building may not be finished until the end of the decade, two years later than the initial deadline.

Despite the delay and cost hike, Mike O'Connor, secretary of the bond oversight committee and parent of a Portola eighth-grader, said he approved of the tentative new plans and hoped the state granted the money.

"It would save the district about \$30 million. That's a lot of money," O'Connor said. "The only other option is to keep the school the way it is."

Shirley Dang covers education. Reach her at 510-262-2798 or [sdang@cctimes.com](mailto:sdang@cctimes.com).

# Cerrito

PAGE A6

**SALE:** The ECHS boys basketball team is selling gym bags. They are green, approximately 19x13x8 with a shoe pouch and water bottle. The bags have "ECHS" and "FAMILY" screened on the front. For more information, contact [ecbaggshops@yahoo.com](mailto:ecbaggshops@yahoo.com).

**WANTED:** Leadership is looking for new members for the spring semester. The organization is looking for "individuals" who help fund-raising events and have a voice on campus. Class begins at 8 a.m. and students receive 2.5 extra credit points. Those interested should fill out an application in Room 48 at the school. Contact: [ecbaggshops@yahoo.com](mailto:ecbaggshops@yahoo.com).

**SALE:** See's Candy Bars are being sold throughout the school year. Each bar is \$36. Candy bars will be sold at \$1.50 each. All purchases will be credited to the school's account. For more information, e-mail [ecbaggshops@yahoo.com](mailto:ecbaggshops@yahoo.com).

**PTA MEETING:** Monday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Harding Library. Child care will be provided.

**KINDERGARTEN TOUR:** Tour will be held Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 9 a.m. in the Harding Library. It will include a presentation by parents and principal, classroom tours, complimentary coffee and pastries provided by Starbucks and Semifreddo's Bakery. Please RSVP to school office at 510-231-1413.

**RUMMAGE SALE:** A rummage sale will be held April 29. Please save clean furniture and household items in good working condition: clothes, toys, small appliances (coffee makers), small tools and antiques. Proceeds support art, music and science programs. Bring items to the school office. Rummage sale coordinators: Cathie Gonzalez-Leone, Lisa Bolton and Carla Campbell.

**BOX TOPS:** The Box Tops for Education deadline is Friday, Feb. 10. Look for the "Box Tops Education" logo on the products you purchase. Bring your coupons, labels and box tops to the school office. Coordinator: Margaret Wolfe.

**HOLLYWOOD AUCTION:** The Harding Goes Hollywood Auction will be held Saturday, March 18. Parents are encouraged to ask employers for donations; personal services are welcome (last year, parents donated massage certificates and yoga lessons). Kid-friendly movies or computer games in good condition, vacation rentals and restaurant gift certificates are popular too. Coordinators: Brenda Mitchell and Martina Hanke.

**MATH NIGHT:** Family Fun and Math

Night was a success. Thanks to David and Denise Evans and the entire Evans family. Also to teacher Kathleen Smallfield for her work on this event.

**Madera Elementary**

**KINDERGARTEN TOURS:** Madera will offer kindergarten tours for parents wanting to learn more about Madera on Friday, Feb. 17 at 10:30 a.m.; and Friday, March 17 at 2 p.m. The tour will include an overview of Madera school, a discussion of the kindergarten curriculum, and a tour of the classrooms, playground, library and computer lab. The tours will last about an hour, and are for adults only (however, adults and children are invited to attend the Madera Open House on March 23). Those interested should call the office at 510-231-1412, Ext. 0 for an appointment.

**Kensington Elementary**

**DAD'S CLUB MEETING:** A Dad's Club meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 7 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the multipurpose room. All parents are invited.

**JAZZ SHOW:** "All That Jazz," a history of jazz presented by students of Mrs. McKnight's second-grade class, will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 9-10, in the multipurpose room. Performances benefit Kensington's sister school in Baton Rouge, La., which is recovering from Hurricane Katrina's devastation. There is no admission fee, but donations for the sister school will be appreciated. All KHS families and friends are welcome to attend.

**PTA MEETING:** Second Step Curriculum (conflict resolution) parent training will be held Monday, Feb. 13 in the multipurpose room. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. Child care is provided.

**YARD VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteers are needed for yard duty. If you can help, please e-mail [karenshbek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karenshbek@sbcglobal.net).

**GIFT CARDS:** Purchase \$20 Peet's Coffee gift cards, and 10 percent of proceeds go back to KEF. Use gift cards at any Peet's Coffee or shop online. Drop off or pick up at school. To make arrangements, contact Victoria Curtis at 510-305-7775 or [vcutis@earthlink.net](mailto:vcutis@earthlink.net) or Nora Hirose at 510-367-9295.

**CARD SALE:** A year-round card sale with five designs created by student artists at Kensington Elementary will help benefit its sister school in Baton Rouge, La. Cards are sold in packs of 12 for \$10. Cards are available at Arlington Pharmacy, 299 Arlington Ave., Kensington; and Sotto Voce, 1845 Solano Ave., Berkeley. Contact Tre Curran at 510-527-8384. View cards online at [KensingtonSchool.org/upcoming.html](http://KensingtonSchool.org/upcoming.html).

**QUILT FUND-RAISER:** Please donate a gift certificate from your business or

restaurant for the annual spring quilt raffle fund-raiser. Your donation is tax deductible. Contact Linda Ruiz-Lozano at [lzoito@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lzoito@sbcglobal.net).

**Castro Elementary**

**LIBRARY RE-OPENING:** The Castro Library Grand Reopening will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9 in Room 4 at Castro School, 7125 Donal Ave. The library was destroyed by fire last April. There will also be a Science Night event that evening in the multipurpose room (entrance near Lawrence Street).

**El Cerrito Preschool Co-op**

**PRESCHOOL CO-OP OPEN HOUSE:** El Cerrito Preschool Cooperative (EPCP) is holding open house for families interested in the school on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The school is at 7200 Moers Lane (cross street Ashbury). The preschool is accepting applications for the 2006-2007, for children who will be at least 2½ by fall. Children are welcome to the open house, and there will be snacks. For more information, contact the enrollment chair at 510-526-1916 or the open house coordinator at [marabemstein@hotmail.com](mailto:marabemstein@hotmail.com).

— Craig Lazzaretti

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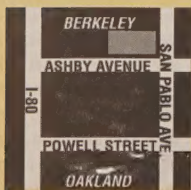
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## California home price up 15.6% from year ago; sales decrease 17.6%

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Median price of an existing single-family detached home in California in December 2005 was \$548,430, a 15.6 percent increase over the \$474,270 median for December 2004, C.A.R. reported. The December 2005 median price remained nearly unchanged compared with November's \$548,680 median price.

"We are experiencing a return to a more balanced market, in line with our expectations, although unsold inventory is still near historical lows, with a 3.6 month supply of homes for sale," said C.A.R. Vice President and Chief Economist Leslie Appleton-Young. "Time on the market also is nearly unchanged at 44 days in December compared with 40 days for the same period last year."

"Housing affordability in the state remains at record lows, which also is impacting the robust sales trend we experienced throughout much of 2005," she said.

locally influence home sales.

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### Highlights

■ C.A.R.'s Unsold Inventory Index for existing, single-family detached homes in December 2005 was 3.6 months, compared with 2 months (revised) for the same period a year ago. The index indicates the number of months needed to deplete the supply of homes on the market at the current sales rate.

■ Thirty-year fixed mortgage interest rates averaged 6.27 percent during December 2005, compared with 5.75 percent in December 2004, according to Freddie Mac.

### HIGHEST MEDIAN PRICE

Los Altos, \$1,427,500  
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San Clemente, \$1,025,000  
Rancho Palos Verdes, \$1,020,000  
Santa Barbara, \$1,000,000  
Los Gatos, \$972,500  
Danville, \$960,000  
Cupertino, \$924,000  
Mill Valley, \$918,000

Adjustable mortgage interest rates averaged 5.17 percent in December 2005 compared with 4.18 percent in December 2004.

■ The median number of days it took to sell a single-family home was 44 days in November 2005, compared with 40 days (revised) for the same period a year ago.

Regional sales data are not adjusted to account for seasonal factors that can influence home sales. The MLS median price and sales data for detached homes are generated from a survey of more than 90 associations of Realtors throughout the state. MLS median price and sales data for condominiums are based on a survey of more than 60 associations. The median price for both detached homes and condominiums represents closed escrow sales.

In a separate report covering more localized statistics generated by C.A.R. and DataQuick Information Systems, 95.5 percent or 379

See REPORT, Page B2

### Real Estate Spotlight:

## European charm and styling in the Claremont hills



THE NEW CUSTOM-DESIGNED and crafted home at 11 Drury Court is privately situated high in the Claremont hills. It is on a lot that takes in all the beauty that surroundings such with San Francisco Bay and bridge views as well as the East Bay hills and canyons. Charming European craftsmanship and styling in this multi-level home is reflected in the imported rustic light fixtures and recycled French roof tiles. Design elements include hand-crafted iron railings; integral color smooth plaster walls, customized exterior colors, wood doors and windows.

The light-filled interior features a full gourmet kitchen, spiral staircases and extensive use of natural stone. The flexible floor plan offers a multitude of spaces allowing for four or five bedrooms, separate studio with its own entrance, home office or in-law living. Gated drive, level courtyard entry and garden. Convenient two-car garage, parking deck and turn around.

Price: \$3,250,000

Listing agents: Pacific Union's Susan Peterson, 925-253-6223, email speterson@pacunion.com, and Gianna Mayo, 925-253-6270, email Gmayo@pacunion.com.



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LEFT: SOME OF THE 25 Red Oak Opportunity Fund (ROOF) recipients express their appreciation to Red Oak Realty at the company's recent award ceremony. RIGHT: Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates acknowledges the importance of Red Oak's role in helping the community. The mayor praised Red Oak's efforts and challenged other companies to do the same.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RED OAK REALTY

## Red Oak Realty's 'ROOF' celebrates another banner year

### RED OAK REALTY

Red Oak Realty, a Berkeley-Oakland based real estate company, announced that its charitable foundation, Red Oak Opportunity Foundation ("ROOF") raised nearly \$100,000 last year for deserving local charitable organizations.

This year, ROOF's grantees were honored at the annual ROOF awards presentations on Thursday, Jan. 12, at Red Oak Realty's Pleasant Valley office at Pleasant Valley Road and Broadway in Oakland.

One of the grantees, Oakland's Cantare Con Vivo, a volunteer chorus of Oakland middle school students, livened the evening with a spirited performance for the assembled group.

Speakers included Berkeley's Mayor Tom Bates, who praised

ROOF's efforts and encouraged other businesses to do the same.

Red Oak Realty has given grants since 1985. Originally funded by Red Oak Realty agents and matching grants from the company, ROOF was born out of a desire to give back to the communities Red Oak serves.

Today, ROOF contributions come not only from the agents and Red Oak Realty, but from matching donations by clients, friends, and business associates as well. In past years, ROOF has donated more than \$500,000 to deserving homeless, educational, and other local organizations which do not receive significant funding from other sources.

ROOF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable foundation. Contributions are tax deductible and 100 percent

One of the grantees, Oakland's Cantare Con Vivo, a volunteer chorus of Oakland middle school students, livened the evening with a spirited performance

are passed through to grant recipients. A committee appointed by the board of directors, comprised of agents and Red Oak Realty owners, makes recommendations for the distribution of grants.

Non-profit organizations wishing to be considered for a ROOF grant, or individuals wishing to make a donation to ROOF, should contact Sue Rulli at Red Oak Realty, 510-280-2130.

Red Oak Realty, 90-plus agents strong, is celebrating its 30th year in the business this month, and is

still independently owned and operated by its original founders.

For many years "The San Francisco Business Times" has included the company in its list of "Most Productive 25 Real Estate Companies" in the greater five-county Bay Area. The company serves Oakland, Piedmont, Berkeley, Kensington, Albany, El Cerrito and Richmond, and surrounding areas.

For more information about Red Oak Realty and ROOF, visit the company's Web site [redoakrealty.com](http://redoakrealty.com).

### 2005 "ROOF" GRANTS

Albany Education Foundation  
Bay Area Alternative Press  
Berkeley—Albany YMCA  
Scholarship Program  
Berkeley Boosters Police  
Activities League  
Berkeley Food & Housing Project  
Berkeley Public Education  
Foundation  
Berkeley Symphony Orchestra  
Camping Unlimited  
Cantare Con Vivo  
Center for Education of Infant Deaf  
Community Violence Solutions  
Greater Richmond Interfaith Program  
(GRIP)

Marcus Foster Educational  
Mercy Brown Bag Program  
Oakland East Bay Symphony  
Opera Piccola (Small World)  
Point Isabel Dog Owners  
Real Adult Volunteer Program  
(RAVP)  
The Education Fund  
(West Contra Costa County)  
Vital Life Services  
(formerly Center for AIDS)  
West Coast Children's Center  
Women's Daytime Drop-in  
Youth Bike Adventures (TBA)  
Youth Emergency Assistance  
(YEAH)  
Youth Enrichment Strategies

## Keep up your spirits despite that 'sold' sign

Number 73 in a series of true experiences in real estate

Most houses that are for sale have For Sale signs posted, but not all of them. There are sellers who don't want a sign.

Often when a house is in escrow, the agent adds a smaller sign at the top of the post that says "Pending Sale," but not every time. Sometimes the agent doesn't get around to it or is not confident that the sale will be completed.

Usually when the sign is taken down, it means that the house has sold, but it can also mean it didn't sell. Maybe the owner's plans changed and he has decided to stay there, or maybe he is changing agents and a new sign will go up before long.

### GREATEST PRICE INCREASES

Twentynine Palms, 81.8 percent  
Taft, 79.9 percent  
Yucca, 56.4 percent  
Upland, 56.1 percent  
Ridgecrest, 51.9 percent  
Ceres, 48.2 percent  
San Dimas, 46.9 percent  
Atwater, 46.2 percent  
Merced, 46.2 percent  
Moorpark, 45.7 percent  
Barstow, 45 percent

compared with December 2004

### Report

FROM PAGE B1

of 397 cities and communities showed an increase in their respective median home prices from a year ago. DataQuick statistics are based on county records data rather than MLS information. DataQuick Information Systems is a subsidiary of Vancouver-based MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates.

Large changes in local median home prices typically indicate both local home price appreciation, and often, large shifts in the composition of housing market activity. Some of the variations in median home prices may be exaggerated due to compositional changes in housing demand.

Leading the way in California real estate for more than 100 years, the California Association of Realtors ([www.car.org](http://www.car.org)) is one of the largest state trade organizations in the United States, with more than 185,000 members dedicated to the advancement of professionalism in real estate. C.A.R. is headquartered in Los Angeles.



TARPOFF AND TALBERT  
True Experiences

"Sold" can mean different things. It may mean that the seller and a buyer have agreed on a price and are now working on completing the sale. It isn't done yet, and there is still the chance that it never will be.

By extraordinary chance, the first house you walk into is precisely what you want. You did not expect this to happen and are wondering what to do next when the person holding house open says, "There is an offer coming in tomorrow," or perhaps, "an offer was presented last night." Now what?

Don't give up! Sometimes people say they are going to make an offer but change their minds. Sometimes offers are not accepted. If you really mean it, you might still be able to make this house yours.

Let's say that you have selected an agent of your own. Further, you have talked to a loan broker. You know how much you can borrow, what price you can afford to pay, and you have the cash you will need available.

Do this. Leave the open house. Go directly home and call your agent. She will find out exactly what is going on with the sale of your dream house. Depending on what she finds out and how strong your ardor is, you might write an offer today or you might hold off.

Here's another possibility. You walk into an open house, you're thinking it looks pretty good, and the agent greets you with, "We already have an accepted offer, but it looks shaky. We're looking for a back-up offer."

Usually this means that although the seller is in contract with a buyer, there is some problem looming. Perhaps there are negotiations about repairs going on and it looks unlikely that they will be resolved. The agent is hoping to find someone else who wants to buy the house in case the first buyer goes away.

Again, you need to talk to your agent — preferably one you have carefully selected. Depending on the situation, you might want to

## Some simple strategies for tax-advantaged investing

As the old adage goes, only two things in life are certain: death and taxes. While that's slightly humorous at first, because we know every American citizen is required to pay what the government deems his fair share, the reality is that taxes can take a significant toll on your investments. Fortunately, however, there are several simple investment strategies that can help you take advantage of certain tax breaks the government has actually afforded you as an investor.

While it may seem rather obvious, you need to remember that taxes can actually work against your efforts to achieve your financial objectives. That's why you need to consider taking advantage of accounts that let you defer — or in some cases even completely avoid — paying taxes on your earnings. Following are some examples of tax-advantaged investments that can help you make the most of your money.

To find a tax-advantaged investment, you may not have to look any further than the company you currently work for. One of the best ways to save money is through an employer-sponsored retirement plan. You may be familiar with some of the most recognizable options, such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans, but others like SIMPLE IRAs, 457 plans and Owner-Only 401(k) plans share some of the same advantages.

All of these plans allow you to defer a portion of your salary into an account, and that money reduces your taxable income at the end of each year. In addition, the money in that account has the potential to grow tax deferred until you withdraw it, assuming you follow certain guidelines. In addition to being taxed at your nor-

mal income tax rate, any funds withdrawn before age 59½ are considered early retirement distributions and may be subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty. On the other end of the spectrum, taxable withdrawals must generally begin at age 70½ for most individuals. By staying invested and taking distributions in the way they were intended — systematically during retirement — your retirement savings can benefit from years of additional tax-deferred earnings.

Another option for tax-deferred or tax-free growth involved Individual Retirement Accounts, better known as IRAs. Like an employer-sponsored plan, a traditional IRA offers the opportunity for your money to grow tax-deferred until withdrawn. However, in contrast to 401(k) plans, the money going into your IRA account must come from your own deposits, which are made after income taxes.

Anyone can contribute to a traditional IRA, but not everyone can get a tax deduction for their contributions. If you are covered by an employer-sponsored retirement plan and your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is above certain levels, you may not be able to deduct any of your traditional IRA contributions, or possibly just a portion.

But if you're not covered by an employer-sponsored plan (or if neither you nor your spouse is covered by an employer-sponsored plan), 100 percent of your contribution — up to government contribution limits — is tax-deductible, regardless of your MAGI.

Whether your contributions are deductible or not, you still get the benefits of tax-deferred growth on earnings. The same age limits and penalties as employer-sponsored plans apply as



LEILA GOUGH  
Money Matters

well, but again, if you use plans in the way they were intended, you can see significant benefits when you compare earnings potential to what would otherwise receive had to pay taxes on your earnings.

In addition to these retirement options, there are other individual investments that offer certain tax advantages. Depending on your investment choices, tax-free municipal and fixed annuities — just a few — could be valuable additions to your overall portfolio to your financial consultant or your tax advisor to see how they can make the most of tax-advantaged investing.

\*Municipal bonds may be subject to local, state or federal minimum tax.

A.G. Edwards generally acts as a broker-dealer, but also as an investment advisor for certain accounts, and the obligations will vary with it. It pays. When working with clients the firm generally acts as a broker-dealer unless specifically indicated in writing. To understand the differences between brokerage and advisory services, please consult relationship information with A.G. Edwards. [www.agedwards.com](http://www.agedwards.com).

Leila Gough is an Assistant Vice President with A.G. Edwards in Oakland. She can be reached at 510-452-8060.

## Worst-case scenario for housing this year

BY JANIS MARA  
INMAN NEWS

The scene opens on a devastated landscape, with the voices of a thousand wannabe homeowners crying out in pain. Congress has enacted limitations on mortgage-interest deductions; interest rates have hit 8 percent; creative loan products have been curtailed; investors have fled to the stock market and first-time buyers can't afford a house.

At least, that's the worst-case scenario for 2006, according to various possibilities suggested by experts and industry observers consulted by Inman News.

Though different folks painted the future with different strokes, one theme was consistent: Interest rates will be the most important factor affecting the industry in 2006. And, though the sign of the beast is 666 in the Bible, the bad-luck number for mortgage interest rates is 8 percent, a number of experts said.

"If the (long-term) interest rate went over 8 percent, it would impact the market," said James Sklarz, principal broker of Century 21 Allstate Realty.

"You tick the price up and make the market mental another \$300, \$400, and people who begin to begin with will be priced right out of the market. You'll hurt the worst will be the first-time buyers," said Sklarz.

A real estate analyst also evoked the 8 percent. "At 6 and 7 percent we still see upward movement or, at worst, sideways-moving price pressure," said Michael Sklarz, chief valuation officer at National Financial. "But at 8 percent, some prices will be falling."

Christopher Cagan, director of research and analytics at First American Real Estate Solutions

# ousing

PAGE B2

klarz. "Prices would start to rise. But I don't expect that to

ed, not one member of the expected interest rates to 8 percent. Generally, the expected rates to remain low in 2006, going no more than 6 or 7 percent at most. The loan products such as in-ly loans also figured promi-ly many experts' worst-case os. Some were worried whether individual home- could handle the loans; oth- oned on investors.

ple with adjustable-rate ges, as long as their mort- yment doesn't go up too y they will probably do every- ey can to hold on to their

aid Delores Conway, di- of the Casden Forecast at the ily of Southern California nter for Real Estate.

if you have a speculator ook out an interest-only loan, ing to flip the property for profit hort time, and the prices go ey might just walk away

aid Conway. ere's a lot of homes and con- ing built around the United y," said Mark Dotzour, chief onist at Texas A&M University's Estate Center. "The danger is

large percentage of that ded- is from speculators and in- rs. Those people can decide vesting in Wall Street again, and demand can vaporize. e town where demand from

them is between 20 and 40 percent, you could end up with a massive amount of overbuilding," Dotzour said. That could leave builders in a bad position, the economist said.

"Subprime loans to individuals with impaired credit histories opened up the market to help them afford homes, but at the same time if interest rates rise and their mortgage payments go up faster than their incomes, they will encounter difficulties," said James Barth, senior fellow at the Milken Institute and finance professor at Auburn University.

One industry veteran predicted that exotic loans would be curtailed in 2006.

"The secondary market is tired of creative financing products and is starting to price against them," said Pat Stone, vice chairman for Metrocities Mortgage, based in Southern California.

Another worst-case possibility for 2006: tampering with the mortgage-interest deduction, Wright said.

Wright was referring to the fact that the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform presented a plan to President Bush on Nov. 1, calling for replacing the mortgage-interest deduction with a more limited 15 percent tax credit, among other things.

The proposed change isn't seen as a serious threat by many, thanks at least in part to the spirited defense mounted against it by entities including the National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Home Builders.

During the final months of 2006, as inventory grew and some parts of the country witnessed a slow-

down, the question on everyone's mind was, What about house-price appreciation? Are the days of mind-boggling price jumps over?

"The worst case scenario for home prices would be what everyone is screaming about - the so-called bubble would pop," said Cagan. "I don't think we're in a bubble, though," Cagan predicted a healthy normal market going up about 6-8 percent.

Folks used to the double-digit price growth seen in parts of states such as Florida, California and Nevada might see the experts' home-price growth predictions as a worst-case scenario. "I would think price appreciation will be in the lower single digits in the United States in 2006," said Sklarz. Industry veteran Steve Ozonlan, CEO of Global Mobility, pegged home price growth at 5 to 7 percent.

Most of the experts said the moderating of house prices was a good sign, "a correction, not a catastrophe," as Cagan put it. Even the overheated markets in Florida, California and Nevada aren't in for a rude surprise, according to the experts, just a softening.

"The market is going to slow down," said Stone. "Ten to 30 percent fewer homes will be sold. The best case is 10 percent fewer; the worst case is 30 percent fewer."

Visit [www.inman.com](http://www.inman.com) for more real estate articles

## Tarpoiff

FROM PAGE B2

make that offer and wait to see what happens next. In fact, you can make an offer anytime on any house, but you probably don't want to spin your wheels unnecessarily. Your agent will gather information, help you predict your chances of success, and—if it's possible—get what you are after.

So even if you think you are not quite ready to buy, it's best to prepare yourself anyway. Love can arrive when you least expect it (a very nice thing about love).

Talk to a loan broker and search for your own agent. These are the people who will tell you what the signs mean. Because no house has an exact duplicate, the one you want may appear only once. Wouldn't you like to be there when it does?

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoiff are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and [atwww.tarpoiffandtalbert.com](http://atwww.tarpoiffandtalbert.com).

This week's Open Home Guide starts on B18.

## coming soon

Pristine and immaculate describe this 2005 renovation and second floor addition of this classic five bedroom and three bath North Berkeley home with views of San Francisco! The main floor including its master suite is presented with bamboo floors. A few steps away from the Kensington Village.

Offered at \$1,595,000



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## open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This stunning Piedmont Mediterranean has been recently renovated throughout. There are five bedrooms and four and one half bathrooms including an au pair space with a separate entrance. The new kitchen is accented with granite and stainless appliances. The formal rooms are spacious and well appointed. The home has wonderful outdoor spaces for entertaining and play.

Offered at \$2,375,000



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## open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Charming, spacious and well maintained three bedroom and one bath Craftsman near the Rose Garden. Large and very cozy entertaining rooms. Original details such as hardwood floors, classic French doors and moldings. Downstairs includes au pair with separate entry. Great art collection!

Offered at \$659,000



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## 8008 Broadway Terrace, Montclair

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4:30PM



Surrounded by picturesque European hillside views, this exceptionally spacious 4bedroom, 2.5bathroom Montclair custom built contemporary offers the best of both family living and entertaining. The home is complimented by an open floor plan, multiple windows, hardwood floors, and traditional detailing throughout. Enjoy indoor/outdoor entertaining with upper and lower decks, and huge landscaped yards! Great location close to Montclair restaurants and shops and easy SF commute.

Asking Price \$995,000

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## coming soon

Designed by Leola Hall, this beautiful home enjoys a cul-de-sac location near shops and RT. There are three bedrooms, one and bath, formal dining room with original built-in eat-in kitchen, and sun room. The elegant wood interior creates warmth and resonates with the exceptional artists that founded this community. A joy to see! Offered at \$850,000



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## open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Located on a tree-lined street in central Piedmont, this gorgeous home has five spacious bedrooms, and beautiful original detailing throughout. The light-filled master-family room opens up to a lovely garden and easy entertaining.

Offered at \$2,690,000



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## open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Ideally sited on a level, corner overlooking Monkey Island Park is this lovely Claremont Court traditional home. Spacious, formal living and dining rooms level out to lovely gardens. Main floor bedroom with en-suite bath. Four bedrooms, two baths including a large sunny master retreat.

Offered at \$1,595,000



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160 Alvarado Road, Berkeley, CA 94705

# Journal of a remodeler

Part three of a series  
I continue to share our trials and tribulations as my wife, Sonia, and I remodel most of our home. For previous articles, go to my Web site at [www.eastbay-realtor.com](http://www.eastbay-realtor.com).

**Oct. 27:** The foreman, Sam, showed me the plans. He wanted to make sure the window indicated in the shower addition was correct. Initially, we had tossed around the idea of having a window in the shower itself. This would add light. After pondering the pros and cons, however, we told our architect to eliminate it because it posed potential leak problems.

We did not notice that it had been left in the plans. If Sam had not asked us, it would have been another, expensive mistake.

After negotiations, the heating contractor agreed to reduce his price and we gave the okay for all the heating-related work, including a new furnace and new heating ducts. On this one item alone, we exceed our contractor's heating work estimate by \$7100.

If we were preparing to sell we would never have done, and spent, so much on things like new heating and electrical systems — aspects that most prospective buyers do not fully appreciate. Fortunately, we are remodeling for our own pleasure.

**Oct. 31:** The lead electrician pointed out to us that, according to the plans, we will only have about three inches of clearance above the top of our new kitchen cabinets. This means the up-lights we



**DON DUNNING**  
What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

planned do not make sense as there will not be enough "reach space" for replacing light bulbs.

The unexpected three inch gap will be covered by molding. There will be, of course, an additional expense as we have to get different molding than the one we ordered (and paid for) from the cabinet company.

We had discussed lighting and electrical with the architect, but, like other problems, he did not analyze the relationship between cabinet height and lighting and did not account for this in the plans. At mo-

ments like this, I remind myself how it could be worse.

Several days after ordering windows, we decided to eliminate one and to replace the existing greenhouse window in the expanding bath with a smaller, double-hung one. By doing so, the new medicine cabinet over the pedestal sink would be balanced.

As today was sunny, the men tore off the roof of our half bath and began framing the new, extended one. Toward the end of the day, as the bath roof took form, one of the workers pointed out to us that it was blocking the top third of one of the new master bedroom windows. We had to move fast to change our window order.

I immediately called to hold off on this window until we decide whether to shorten or eliminate it. As it was supposed to be the same height as the other two in the room,

shortening it may make it look awkward. Not having the window there at all, on the other hand, will eliminate light and air circulation. It came as no surprise that our architect did not foresee this issue.

**Nov. 1:** We decided to keep, but lower, the top of the window so we will not see roof and gutters. It will be a bit asymmetrical, but better than that no window at all. I doubt if anyone else will notice.

More details were covered today. The electrician checked with us about the range hood and asked if the one drawn in the plans was what we ordered. It was not. The final kitchen plan, which the architect has, clearly showed the correct one. Another problem was narrowly avoided only because, at each step, the crew cares enough to double check with us.

At my request, the electrician had me stand in the master bath-

room and measured where the lighted, shaving mirror on the wall by the sink, plunked it anywhere, it would have ended up at height for me.

An example of what happens when workmen plow ahead thinking just happens when my fellow Realtors who are modeling her home. She and her husband were away from while work continued on. When she returned, she found bathroom vanity complete with beautiful goose-neck mirror had been installed. Only to find that they blocked the main "inlets" doors. She was not

Don Dunning has been a Real Estate Broker since 1978, president of the Oakland Association of Realtors. He can be reached at 510-485-7239 or [don.dunning.com](http://don.dunning.com).

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AmeriSave Mortgage Corp. 877-464-5218 DRE# 6038892 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.773 5.954 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.500 6.104 ... 30	3/1 ARM 5.125 ... 0.500 6.810 ... 30	5/1 ARM 5.250 ... 0.625 6.593 ... 30	www.amerisave.com Fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300! Mention this ad and receive up to 50% off lender fees!
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 01370755 Fees=\$1853	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 1.125 5.903 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 ... 1.125 6.127 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 5.375 ... 1.125 6.498 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.375 ... 1.250 6.509 ... 30	OPEN SAT & SUN QUICK QUALIFIER OR NO INCOME LOANS AVAILABLE NO POINTS LOANS AVAILABLE
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Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DRE# 6037471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 1.625 5.929 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.125 ... 1.750 6.304 ... 45	1-mo COFI ARM 1.250 ... 1.000 6.115 ... 45	30 Year No Neg Arm 3.950 ... 1.000 6.668 ... 45	Direct lender since 1957. *Pot. neg. arm Great rates and FAST decisions Apply online at <a href="http://www.downeysavings.com">www.downeysavings.com</a>
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Main Line-Tavistock Mtge. 877-246-3600 DRE# 803-A784 Fees=\$1298	30-yr Fixed 5.875 ... 0.000 5.960 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.125 ... 0.000 6.152 ... 30	20-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 0.000 5.840 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 5.375 ... 0.000 5.460 ... 30	BEST RATE AND FEE GUARANTEE NO APPRAISAL FEE. MAINLINE NATIONAL COM NO RATE LOCK FEE - OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.
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**339 BROADWAY # 101 ALAMEDA**  
Waterside condo with 2 bed 1 bath, kitchen with stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors, wainscot paneling, frame casings on both the windows and doors. Walk to shops, transportation and school.  
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**1110 IRONWOOD RD. ALAMEDA**  
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**946 35TH AVE., OAKLAND**  
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**RICHMOND ANNEX**

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**Michele Manzone (510) 662-6622**

# Thinking of scaling down?

Why not move to Paris?

Very often in their real estate practice, Judith Glass and Sheila Sabine meet sellers who ask the same question — "Sure, I'd like to move to a large home and move to a better place — but where would I



JUDITH GLASS & SHEILA SABINE  
House Talk

One adventuresome friend of theirs recently answered this question in a most creative and cosmopolitan way — she decided to move to Paris!

Virginia Barnes is an artist who lived in the Bay Area for over 20 years. In 1962, she had attended the Sorbonne and began a long love affair with the City of Light. She returned to Paris several times on vacation, and finally decided to take the big leap and move to Paris.

She set up base camp in a small apartment in the Montmartre district and spent three months working on her own. For Californians who are used to our real estate system with the MLS (Multiple Listing Service) and full disclosure of every house, the French system is definitely a challenge.

There is no such thing as a multiple listing service; the real estate agents only show potential buyers a few of their own listings — so buyers cannot get an accurate sense of the available inventory.

She finally met two Parisian women, Sophie and Michelle, who operate a business helping English-speaking people find and purchase permanent residences. The search began in earnest as they zeroed in on the popular 3rd Arrondissement, known as "Le Marais."

From here it is an easy walk to the Seine, the Picasso Museum of Modern Art, historic buildings, trendy restaurants, cafes and bookstores. With the help of Sophie and Michelle, Virginia located a charming pied-a-terre on a quiet street filled with light, high ceilings, wonderful moldings, a charming interior courtyard, and full-time cheerful concierge.

It is customary in Paris for previous owners to remove all light fixtures, cabinets, and kitchen appliances. In other words, the interior is essentially stripped bare. Sophie and Michelle, following Virginia's detailed instructions, took over the task of replacing the kitchen appliances, cabinetry and the painting and general renovation of the interior.

Sophie, dressed in jeans, rode her bicycle throughout the city searching for the most economical equipment to complete the job. Virginia was delighted with the results. She loves watching the light patterns move throughout the rooms during the day. She takes time listening to the church bells or watching her neighbors stroll with their cute dogs. She admits that her place is compact but like many other Parisians who live in small spaces, most everything is done in cafes or wonderful city parks.

Virginia spends her days doing art projects, Ikebana arrangements, visiting the latest exhibitions. In addition to the more famous museums, there are over twenty that do not charge admission. Also, every month the movie theaters have a special where one pays the normal price for a movie, then the next three days movies cost just three dollars (roughly \$4) each.

She talks about her amazing social life in Paris where there are exciting things to do on a daily basis. She belongs to an on-going conversation group of half French-speaking women and half English-speaking women. They have a lot to talk about — travel, the latest fashions, new restaurants and the latest avant-garde trends.

Virginia is happy with her decision to retire and simplify her life. She is not burdened by enormous household responsibilities but rather, she can spend time doing what matters to her the most. She realizes that she is living in the midst of the best art and artists in the world. She has begun a new entrepreneurial adventure where she helps English-speaking visitors on how to visit the various contemporary galleries and unique shops and throughout "Le Marais."

If you are interested in obtaining more information, e-mail Virginia at [treasdhilla@aatt.net](mailto:treasdhilla@aatt.net).

To learn more about how to move from your larger home to something smaller (preferably right at home!) you can contact Judith Glass and Sheila Sabine.

Judith Glass and Sheila Sabine comprise an East Bay residential real estate team at the Piedmont office of Prudential California Realty. She Sabine can be reached at 424-326-5055 or through their web site at [www.GlassSabine.com](http://www.GlassSabine.com).

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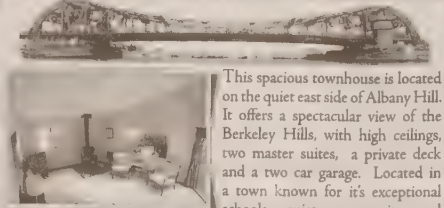
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## open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Conveniently located near shops, transportation and outstanding public schools K-12, this charming Dutch Colonial home has a beautifully detailed entry and spacious formal rooms. The updated kitchen adjoins a sunny breakfast area and large family room with garden access. The upstairs level includes four bedrooms, office and two baths.  
*Price Upon Request*



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## open sunday

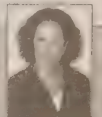
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#### Sumptuous Spanish Mediterranean

Bay and Marin views. 4bd/4.5ba built in 2002. Rich hardwood. 6 burner gas, granite kitchen with adjoining FR. Formal DR. Master with spa tub. Bonus room. Lawn/garden. **\$1,699,000**

### MORAGA

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#### On the Golf Course

Vacation at home in this beautifully remodeled detached home fronting the 8th fairway of the Moraga Country Club. Open bright single story plan with granite counters. **\$1,049,000**

### ANTIOCH

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#### View Property

Fantastic view property located in Dallas Ranch. Magnificent entry, gourmet kitchen, built-in surround sound, 4bd/3ba, loft, master retreat and 3-car garage. **\$929,000**

### OAKLAND

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#### Architectural Gem

Designed by renowned architect Julia Morgan, in 1913 this 2200+-sf 3bd/2ba home located in Adams Point has beautiful woodwork, hardwood floors and large level back yard. **\$829,000**

### OAKLAND

510.899.8000



#### Close to Village

This sunny 1938 New England traditional-style home is set on a large lot, one block to Montclair Village. 2+bd/2ba, huge country gas kitchen, FR and hardwoods. **\$794,000**

### EL CERRITO

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#### Wonderful El Cerrito Hills View Home

Gleaming hardwood floors and fresh paint. 4bd/1.5ba with Golden Gate and Mt Tam views from living/dining area. Updated eat-in kitchen with laundry. Private yard. **\$735,000**

### EL SOBRANTE

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#### Quaint Charmer with Views

Located in a quiet residential neighborhood close to schools, this charming home has been meticulously maintained and lovingly cared for by the original owner. **\$549,000**

### MORAGA

925.258.1111



#### Ridge Views

Great room home with spectacular views of Mulholland Ridge. Vaulted ceilings, new dual paned windows, new kitchen with granite counters and wood stove. **\$489,900**

### OAKLAND

510.899.8000



#### Haddon Hills Flat

Spacious one bedroom tenants-in-common near Lake Merritt and Lakeshore shops. Bright and sunny top floor unit. Great layout with hardwood floors. Laundry. **\$299,000**

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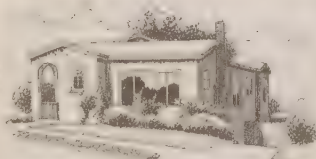
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3214 MILLSVIEW AVENUE \$549,000

**Maxwell Park.** Remodeled bungalow with charm and pizzazz! Three bedroom, one bath, refinished hardwood floors, living room with elegant fireplace, gorgeous designer kitchen with granite counters and maple cabinets, breakfast room with panoramic view, large basement with bonus room and storage space, sunny deck and flagstone patio.  
Margaret Acevedo 531-7000 x244



1742 12TH AVENUE \$499,000

**East Oakland.** Come see this three bedroom, two bath Victorian with wonderful architectural detail. With updated baths and kitchen a formal dining room with fireplace, and a living room, this is a must see!

Teri L. Lester 531-7000 x262



250 MONTECITO AVENUE #205 \$339,000

**Adams Point.** One bedroom, one bath 900+ square foot large corner unit condo. Many windows, many upgrades, very light and bright, new carpet, updated bath, and newer appliances in kitchen.  
Bonnie Leffmann 531-7000 x278

### COMING SOON



#### RIDGEMONT

Beautifully maintained with many fine upgrades. An exceptional property on almost .45 acres, four bedrooms, three and a half baths, large family room, formal dining room and separate breakfast area, two fireplace, three car garage - a total of 3300 square feet.

Chris Christensen 531-7000 x242

#### METICULOUSLY CARED FOR HOME

\$889,500

**Montclair.** Set among redwoods. Double size lot of 12000+ sq. ft. Renovated in the 80's, this spacious home has three bedrooms, three baths, in-law/family room, formal dining room, living room with fireplace, hardwood floors, two car garage, level yard area and additional deck area.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

#### VICTORIAN DUPLEX

\$720,000

**Oakland/Berkeley border off Powell.** Perfect for the owner-occupant. Large three plus bedroom, two bath upper unit with loads of charm. Modern lower unit with two bedroom, one bath. Reports available. Beautiful garden area too.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235



#### ESTUDIO ESTATES!

\$719,000

**San Leandro.** Lovely details in this charming Mediterranean. Three spacious bedrooms, one and a half baths, formal dining room and separate breakfast room. The gracious living room opens to the backyard with fruit trees, lawn and patio. Family room/home office near kitchen. Close to shopping, transportation and popular coffee shop.

Chris Christensen 531-7000 x242



#### SOPHISTICATED SPANISH STYLE BUNGALOW

\$519,000

**Oakland.** With architectural detail! Two plus bedroom, one and a half baths, living room with crown molding and elegant fireplace, formal dining room, tastefully remodeled kitchen and bath, bonus room with closet and half bath - great for office or den, large basement, attached garage.

Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228

#### WONDERFULLY RESTORED 1920'S BUNGALOW

\$535,000

**Dimond.** Best value in area of Highway 580. Three bedrooms, two baths, formal dining room, living room with fireplace, hardwood floors, built-in china cabinet, basement, bonus room, laundry room, remodeled kitchen and baths, finished garage. Must see to appreciate.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

#### SWEET CONDO

\$439,000

**Adams Point.** Spacious two bedroom, two bath condo with updated kitchen and bathrooms master suite with walk-in closet. Patio off of living room. Secured parking and extra storage. A must see!

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#### 1914 BROWN-SHINGLE CHARMER

\$438,000

**Highland Park.** Highland Park two bedroom, one bath with updated kitchen and many original details. Great back yard and upstairs retreat. Needs some Tender Loving Care.

Tracy Butler 531-7000 x232

### HOMEOWNERSHIP STARTS HERE

FREE Home Buyer Event  
Wells & Bennett Office

Call Elisa Uribe at  
510-485-7272 to register for this  
informative event exclusive to those  
interested in buying a home in 2006.

### LAND FOR SALE

#### NORTHERN CA COMMERCIAL LAND

\$4,398,000

Nine acres of commercial property in Northern CA along I-5. Currently used for five residential/commercial properties. Excellent development potential for shopping center, mix-use, home building.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

#### OAKLAND DEVELOPMENT

\$1,600,000

Approximately 36,000 sq.ft. level lot. Located near High street and highway 880. Zoned for commercial, live-work, mfg. Reports available. Price below comparables. Subject to 1031.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

#### CORNING CA

\$1,594,296

Three acre development property located in Corning, CA off I-5. Currently used as motel, but commercially zoned for many uses. Adjoining nine acres also available. Excellent locate for shopping center or big box comps.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

#### OAKLAND HILLS 2.34 ACRES

\$439,000

Zoned single family. Slope varies from level, up and down. Area for building pad. S.F. and bay views. Utilities at front of lot. Shared gated driveway.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

#### MONTCLAIR LOT

\$283,000

Approved plans. Up slope lot on Westover Drive. Design review approved plans. Spacious and open floor plan. Call for agent packet and financing information.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

#### MONTCLAIR HILLS

\$199,000

Large upslope lot, nice and tranquil area in Montclair.

Nicolette Bot 531-7000 x261

### TAHOE LISTINGS

#### SOPHISTICATED MOUNTAIN STYLE

\$3,950,000

This is a custom four bedroom, four and a half bath mountain home built by a local builder. Incredible home with all the finest details of high ceilings, beautiful warm wood paneling, quartzite granite counters and custom tile work in the kitchen and baths. Each bedroom has an attached closet. Office with lake view and two work stations. Pet with boat lift and a buoy. Three car oversized garage.

Jim Plumbridge/Carla Werner 800-858-2463

#### CLASSIC TAHOE

\$899,000

This is a classic three bedroom, two bath Tahoe home. This home has had some recent updates. The big and bright living room has a large wood burning fireplace and French doors that take you to a large wrap around deck. Hot tub off the kitchen. Close to Tahoe City and Alpine Meadows.

Jim Plumbridge/Carla Werner 800-858-2463

#### PARADISE FOUND

\$879,500

Summer or winter you have easy access to mountains and just steps to the beach. This home proudly serves all your mountain living needs with three comfortable bedrooms, tow full bath living/dining area with a more than ample kitchen. Spiral stairs to the master bedroom that backs to sunlight and has French doors that open onto a private deck with lake and mountain views.

Carla Werner 800-858-2463

#### WALK TO BEACH

\$650,000

This delightful cottage in a desirable Cedar Fl. location captivated the chic styling of a beautiful cottage offering peaceful relaxation. This easy to maintain get-away offers three nice sized bedrooms, two baths, laundry room, adequate storage with an open kitchen/dining and living area with fireplace. Lovely view of the lake from the decks.

Pat Lucas 530-583-7504

#### COMSTOCK TREASURE

\$529,000

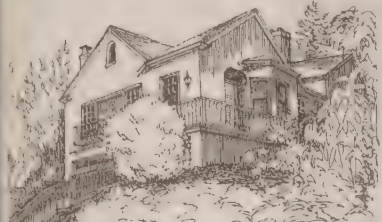
Rare buildable lot in Comstock Acres with nice views. Plans included and ready for 2006 allocation submittal. Walk to Tahoe City, Truckee River and Tahoe Rim Trail. You will love this location!

Mike Niles 800-858-2463

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Now in Lake Tahoe!**  
800-858-2463

Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide starting on B18.

### OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2:00 TO 4:30



2126-41st Ave.  
Oakland

When you love Oakland you'll embark upon a "Y" in the road, here perched high over a full finished basement and double garage is this elegant residence built in 1928, the era of the "Great Depression", affecting the assemblage of home uses, yet the craftsmanship of the tradesmen remained at its highest level of quality significantly goes undisputed here. Overlooking its surroundings for miles around, it is told that the traditional firework brings on an awesome sight! This home's artistic collections reflects subdued elegance with sculptured archways, walls and ceilings, an abundance of picture windows flooding in the all day's natural light. The 4,400 sq. ft. living space consisting of six rooms featuring the formality room's displaying a commanding tile facade wood paneled fireplace with arched candelabra lights provides a mood to entertain by. The home's two bedrooms elevated at the rear of the main level takes the master suite at its own, two closets, an en suite bathroom plus an additional downstairs commode. The kitchen is a wood clad in great eat-in room featuring window bay and built-in hutch, a cherry atmosphere guaranteeing to put more love in your home. Call Ms. "Sam" McDowell (510) 521-6917.

Ms. "Sam" McDowell  
(510) 521-6917

### OPEN SUNDAY

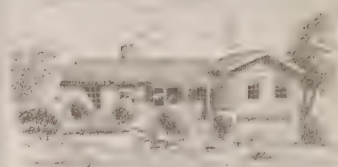
2-4:30 PM



4250 MAPLE AVENUE,  
OAKLAND

Just Listed!  
In Upper Laurel, this charming 1939 Traditional has a nice verdant outlook and an inviting front yard & patio. This 3-bedroom, 2-bath home has hardwood floors, wooden sash windows, formal dining room and family room, too!

\$669,000



RUBY NG, CRS  
Previews Property Specialist  
510-339-4779  
rubyng@earthlink.com  
www.camoves.com/ruby.ng

### NEW ASSOCIATES WITH MARVIN GARDENS



Tony Wise, Realtor®  
7502 Fairmount Ave.  
El Cerrito, CA 94530  
Cell: (510) 207-5770  
Voice mail: (510) 559-2924  
wise@marvingardens.com

Marvin Gardens proudly announces the association of Tony Wise with our El Cerrito office. Tony Wise has lived in El Cerrito since 1966. He has a great sense of humor and an energetic personality, and is committed to providing top-level professional Real Estate service. With the help of Tony's brother-in-law Danny Lopez, another motivated realtor, we've got a great new team that can truly be in two places at once!

marvin gardens

### RECENTLY SOLD

5817 FLORENCE TERRACE  
MONTCLAIR

This charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a wonderful garden sold with three offers for over the asking price.

OFFERED AT  
\$815,000



DIAN HYMER, CRS  
Associate Broker  
Previews Property Specialist  
#1 agent in the Oakland/Piedmont office  
510-339-4777  
Photo Tours At: dianhymer.com

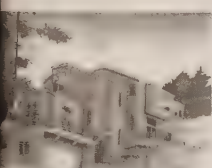
## COLDWELL BANKER



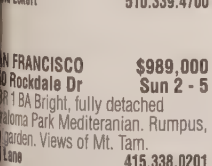
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#### OPEN HOMES

FAFETTE \$2,975,000  
107 Natasha Dr. Sun 1 - 4  
3 BR 5.5 BA Modern Craftsman.  
Design by J Wright. Pool, over .5 acre  
www.4007Natasha.com.  
Kim & Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495



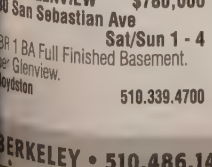
MONTCLAIR \$1,425,000  
10 Arrowhead Dr. Sun 2 - 4:30  
2.5 BA End finish-work, gourmet  
formal Living Room & Dining  
Room.  
David Eckert 510.339.4700



SAN FRANCISCO \$989,000  
10 Rockdale Dr. Sun 2 - 5  
3 BR 1 BA Bright, fully detached  
Alhambra Park Mediterranean. Rumpus,  
Garden. Views of Mt. Tam.  
Lane 415.338.0201



WINSINGTON \$875,000  
10 Arlington Dr. Sun 2 - 4  
3 BR 1.5 BA European style w/  
modern conveniences. Formal dining  
rm, remod. kitch. Courtyard, views.  
Kim & Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495



PER GLENVIEW \$780,000  
10 San Sebastian Ave. Sat/Sun 1 - 4  
3 BR 1 BA Full Finished Basement.  
per Glenview.  
David Eckert 510.339.4700

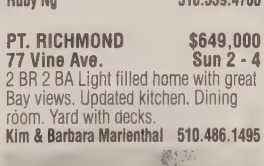


#### OPEN HOMES

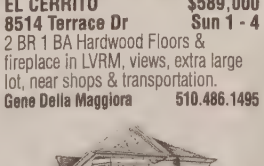
HERCULES \$734,900  
1015 Craftsman Dr. Sun 2 - 4  
3 BR 2.5 BA Victoria By the Bay!  
Upgraded KIT, LR w/FRPL, MSTR BR,  
2-car garage, nr shops & trans.  
Michael Oh 510.486.1495



LAUREL UPPER \$669,000  
4250 Maple Ave. Sun 2 - 4:30  
3 BR 2 BA 1939 Traditional w/verdant  
outlook & charm - HWF, Fam Rm, &  
FDR with double door to back patio.  
Inviting front patio; gardening areas.  
Ruby Ng 510.339.4700



PT. RICHMOND \$649,000  
77 Vine Ave. Sun 2 - 4  
2 BR 2 BA Light filled home with great  
Bay views. Updated kitchen. Dining  
room. Yard with decks.  
Kim & Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495



EL CERRITO \$589,000  
8514 Terrace Dr. Sun 1 - 4  
2 BR 1 BA Hardwood Floors &  
fireplace in LVRM, views, extra large  
lot, near shops & transportation.  
Gene Della Maggiora 510.486.1495

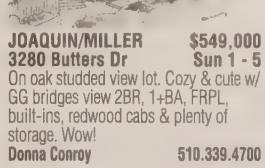


EMERYVILLE \$569,000  
4026 West St. Sun 1:30 - 4:30  
3 BR 2 BA Exceptional, spacious  
soon-to-be condo. SF, hill views.  
Remodeled vintage beauty. Garage.  
Catherine Varnau 510.486.1495



#### OPEN HOMES

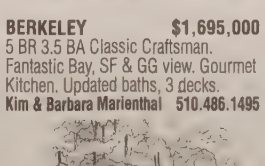
JOAQUIN/MILLER \$549,000  
3280 Butters Dr. Sun 1 - 5  
On oak studded view lot. Cozy & cute w/  
GG bridges view 2BR, 1+BA, FRPL,  
built-ins, redwood cabs & plenty of  
storage. Wow!  
Donna Conroy 510.339.4700



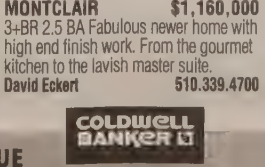
HILLER HIGHLANDS \$449,900  
46 Spyglass Hill Sun 2 - 4:30  
1 BR 1 BA Bright contemporary  
townhouse with breathtaking SF Bay &  
bridges views. Close to country club  
& easy freeway access.  
Peter Nicolopoulos 510.339.4700



BERKELEY HILLS \$3,075,000  
Unique Home. 3 BR 3 BA Asian Craftsman  
fusion. LV rm w/cathedral ceilings,  
splendid grounds, gym, Bay & GG views.  
Kim & Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495



BERKELEY \$1,695,000  
5 BR 3.5 BA Classic Craftsman.  
Fantastic Bay, SF & GG view. Gourmet  
Kitchen. Updated baths, 3 decks.  
Kim & Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495

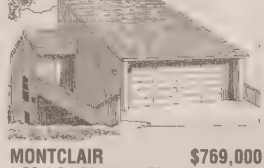


MONTCLAIR \$1,160,000  
3+BR 2.5 BA Fabulous newer home with  
high end finish work. From the gourmet  
kitchen to the lavish master suite.  
David Eckert 510.339.4700



#### BY APPOINTMENTS

BERKELEY HILLS \$1,125,000  
4 BR 3 BA Remodeled mid century  
home. Bay view. Hdwd, lrg fam rm, 2  
car gar, huge deck. Lrg lot.  
Kim & Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495



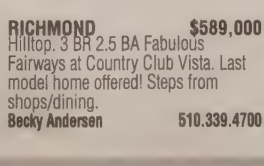
MONTCLAIR \$769,000  
3 BR 2 BA Piedmont Pine  
Contemporary with soaring ceilings &  
open floor plan. HWF, w/w carpet, FP,  
ofc/study; 2C Gar; Canyon Vu; Nr  
Regional Prk.  
Ruby Ng 510.339.4700



OAKMORE \$769,000  
3 BR 2 BA Traditional w/ 1930's  
architectural detail, FDR, hdwd flrs,  
vaulted ceiling, plantation shutters +  
terraced yard w/ fruit trees & deck  
Darcy Diamantine 510.339.4700



ALBANY \$720,000  
Coming Soon! 3 BR 1 BA Enchanting  
Tudor in ideal location. Formal dining  
room, large eat-in kitchen, great yard.  
Marilyn Garcia 510.486.1495



RICHMOND \$589,000  
Hilltop. 3 BR 2.5 BA Fabulous  
Fairways at Country Club Vista. Last  
model home offered! Steps from  
shops/dining.  
Becky Andersen 510.339.4700



#### BY APPOINTMENTS

HAYWARD \$525,000  
Comfortable. 3 BR 3 BA Cozy stylish  
home with awesome views, hardwood  
floors & incredible updated kitchen.  
Spacious Living Room & Dining Room.  
Reva Tolbert 510-339-4700

BERKELEY \$450,000  
1 BR 1 BA Lg brite condo w/2 bridge  
vu. In unit Indry, dishwashr, office/  
alcove, DR, eat-in kitch.  
Zanna Knight 510.486.1495

EMERYVILLE \$429,000  
High-Rise Living. 1 BR 1 BA Light,  
Bright Condo with Dramatic Golden  
Gate views! Pool and tennis too!  
Gene Della Maggiora 510.486.1495

LOTS  
HAYWARD \$5,000,000  
Hayward Hills. 16 Premium lots with  
views of the City, Bay and Castro  
Valley Hills  
Gary Robinson 510.339.4700

OAKLAND \$390,000  
Montclair bay view downslope.  
Ormindale Ct. at Elverton Dr. In area of  
premium newer homes.  
Peter Nicolopoulos 510.339.4700

OAKLAND \$379,000  
Plans and permits these two houses  
could be ready to build come April  
2006. Nice easy upslope lots with  
Canyon Views, great designs.  
David Eckert 510.339.4700

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**H**ouses should be fun to come home to and a joy to live in, and this classic Berkeley bungalow meets the criteria on both counts. Spacious, airy and full of charm, this property features 3BD & 2BA, a lovely entry, formal dining room and upper level master suite. Wonderful spaces, a delightful pallet of colors, loads of unique details and a great price! **\$589,000**

**Just Listed! Open This Sunday!**

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Northbrae Properties—1600 Hopkins Street, Berkeley 94707—510/526-4336-www.northbrae.com

**open  
sunday**

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A gardener's delight, this charming cottage features natural wood detail, two bedrooms, one bath, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen and office nook. Huge lot. Two-car garage + workshop.

Offered at \$529,500

827 Jackson Street, Albany

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Office: 510.339.0400/253  
ccohn@grubbco.com  
Berkeley-Properties.com

1451 Marin Avenue, Albany ~ SOLD

**marvin gardens**

Ann Arriola Plant  
(510) 527-2700

"Bob and I have purchased nine properties in our many years of marriage, each one was 1000 times more difficult than the Marin sale. I can't thank you enough for the way you handled everything! You are really one-in-a-million, even a billion!"  
- F. Willson, Seller

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**Diablo**  
**\$5,250,000**  
5BR/3 5BA w/mstr BR en-suite  
Approx. 5.5 ac. Fronting historic  
Diablo Lake—incl. Personal dock  
Pool/spa 2BR/1BA guest wing  
www.2358AlamedaDiablo.com

**Janet Sweeney (925)314-1500**

**Lafayette**  
**\$1,495,000**  
4BR/2 5BA, plus loft/bonus room. A rare find! Secluded. Hardwood floors. 2 fireplaces. Large kit. Formal dining room. Large nook. View! Flat yard. Walk to school. Expect to be impressed. 1/2 acre and totally updated. Huge mature trees

**Kazie Afsari (925)935-9100**

**Alameda**  
**\$589,000**  
2+BR/1BA. Coming soon! Darling Craftsman w/ gorgeous light, built-ins & hardwood floors. The house also has an enormous useable basement, garage, a sweet backyard and it is near the best Alameda has to offer.

**Andrea Gordon (510)339-8900**

**Martinez**  
**\$569,000**  
3BR/2BA. Approx. 1455 sq. ft. with spacious 2 car garage. Gorgeous remodeled kitchen with new stainless steel appliances and granite counters.

**Andy Pfeiffer (925)935-9100**

**Oakland**  
**\$950,000**  
**Lot**

Near Broadway Terrace. One of the last great view lots with 36,674 sq. ft. View SF Bridges from your unobstructed private setting. Surveys, Soils Report & Plans for Mediterranean home

**5844 Skyline Blvd.  
Mel Copland  
510-339-8900**

**El Sobrante**  
**\$499,900**  
**Lot**

On a clear day, you can see forever. Own your own "Slice of Heaven" right here on earth. Build your dream home on this park-like setting of 2.75 acres. Enjoy one of the best views in the Bay Area.

**Monte Verde Lot  
Carolyn Hastings  
925-314-1500**

**Oakland**  
**\$299,000**  
**Lot**

Near Gunn Dr. Gentle upslope lot Soils Report, survey, good location close to walking path. Shepherd Canyon park.

**Shepherd Canyon Rd.  
Mel Copland  
510-339-8900**

**Lake Merritt**  
**\$438,800**  
1BR/1BA. This condo features ceilings, built in floor to ceiling hoganey bookcases & wood floor. BA & Kit recently updated. In closet. 24 hr drmn service & more.

**Victor Fierro (510)339-8900**

**Hercules**  
**\$649,000**  
3BR/2BA. One story home with views of the bay, neighborhood and close to transit. Prices to sell

**Janet Sweeney (925)314-1500**

**Pleasant Hill**  
**\$549,000**  
3BR/2.5BA. Best priced townhome approx. 1488 sq. ft. + 200 sq. ft. finished attic. Recently updated. Close to downtown, park, etc.

**Sandria Han (925)935-9100**

**Walnut Creek**  
**\$879,000**  
3BR/2 5BA + loft. Updated Summit Ridge home. Kit & BA's w/ brushed maple cabinets. Granite counter, new stone tile floors. New garden. Neighborhood backs to open space

**554 Monarch Ridge Dr.  
Open Sat 12-3:00  
Janet Sweeney (925)314-1500**

**Oakland**  
**\$180,000**  
**Pending**

Off Shephard Canyon to Bay. Upslope lot with Canyon View. Good location, just a short drive to walking path. Survey and plans done

**Gavin Dr.  
Mel Copland  
510-339-8900**

**Oakland - Lake Merritt**  
**\$649,000**

3BR/2BA. Price reduced. Spacious co-op w/approx. 1774 sq. ft. has FDR w/ imported crystal chandelier. State-of-art eat-in kit, parquet floors throughout & 40' tiled terrace w/ sweeping views of Lake Merritt & the East Bay Hills. Secure parking & 24 hr drmn service. Call for showing appt.

**Tom Erwin  
510-339-8900**

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1983 COLLEGE AVENUE  
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PHONE: 510-849-9990

1999 PLEASANT VALLEY  
OAKLAND, CA 94611  
PHONE: 510-292-2000

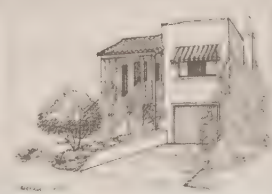
[www.redoakrealty.com](http://www.redoakrealty.com)



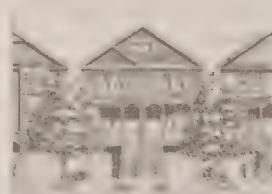
**BERKELEY** \$615,000  
3/1.5 - 1992 brown-shingle duet townhouse with parking, patio & new paint. Near UC, BART & Downtown Arts District. Two stories, one of twelve. Visit [www.justsellmyhouse.com](http://www.justsellmyhouse.com).  
2012B Hearst Avenue Open 2-5



**BERKELEY - NEW!** \$925,000  
2/2 - Magical Mediterranean with dramatic light-filled living areas. Vaulted ceilings in living room. Fabulous backyard with waterfalls and views. Charming!  
2564 Buena Vista Way Open 1-4



**ALBANY** \$599,000  
2/2 - Great location! Family room, updated kitchen & bath, hardwood floors. Fully developed downstairs with den, bathroom and garage. Private rear yard.  
1061 Cornell Avenue Open 1-4:30



**OAKLAND** \$456,000+ each  
4 TOWNHOMES - Newly constructed duet-style three-story, 3-bedroom units with open kitchen plan and private, fenced backyard. Hint of city lights from 3rd floor bedroom.  
3228-3234 Linden Street Open 1-3

**BERKELEY - NEW!** \$685,000  
DUPLEX - 2/2+ townhouse style units in Central Berkeley. Decks and yard space. Close to farmers market, downtown shops and restaurants. Photos & more at [www.redoakrealty.com](http://www.redoakrealty.com).  
2441-2443 McKinley Avenue Open 1-5

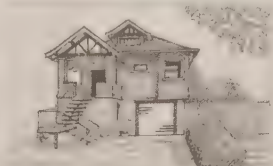
**RICHMOND** \$438,888  
2/1 - Charming with hardwood floors and upgraded kitchen with new cabinets, granite tile counter, built-in gas cook top, microwave over built-in oven. Near civic center.  
525 28th Street Open 2-4

[february 5<sup>th</sup>]

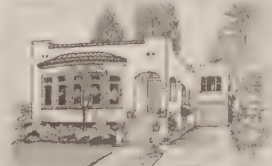
by appointment



**BERKELEY** \$525,000  
2/2 - 2-level condo in a classic Berkeley brown-shingle in Elmwood. Updated kitchen, extra office, workshop & storage areas.



**BERKELEY** \$699,000  
4/2 - Huge single family home. 3,200 sq.ft. of living space, 2 kitchens, big yard, great location. More @ [www.heidiandjerry.com](http://www.heidiandjerry.com).



**BERKELEY** \$675,000  
3/1 - Meticulously renovated bungalow in central location on a sycamore lined street. More information at [www.1741allstonway.com](http://www.1741allstonway.com).



**BERKELEY** \$1,525,000  
4+2.5 - Mediterranean with spectacular 4-bridge views! Includes solarium, fabulous kitchen, sauna. Visit [www.izumitada.com](http://www.izumitada.com).



**BERKELEY** \$985,000  
2/1 + FOURPLEX - Adorable, detached cottage and fourplex (two 3bd, one 1bd, one studio) ideal for 1031 upleg or owner + income.



**OAKLAND** \$572,000  
4/2 - Gorgeous remodeled Victorian. Everything upgraded with beautiful period details left intact.



**OAKLAND** \$725,000  
FOURPLEX - Well cared for and with a newer roof, updated kitchens & baths. Possible owner's unit has 4 bedrooms. Close to everything!



**OAKLAND** \$539,000  
3/2 - Last of 3 condos in elegant Victorian. All the charm of the era including softwood floors & gallery decking for this unit.

**EMERYVILLE** \$369,900  
1/1 - Luxury condo at Andante. This is a true designer showcase! All hardwood floors & stainless steel appliances. Don't miss it!

**KENSINGTON** \$749,900  
3/2 - Lovely home with eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, formal dining room, designer colors. Near the village & coveted Hilltop school.

**RICHMOND** \$587,000  
3/2+ - Bright and clean Hilltop home on a large parcel. Large family room addition, double garage and convenient location.

**RICHMOND MARINA** \$685,000  
3/2.5 - Upgraded home next to the marina, trails and parks. Photos and more information at [www.katieandmark.com](http://www.katieandmark.com).

**CONCORD** \$509,000  
3/2 - Features include a master suite with glass tile in bathroom, rustic slate floors, garden with rock pond. Near shopping & BART.

**ORINDA** \$1,150,000  
4/3.5 - Top of the hill on private drive. Huge views. Updated & remodeled, red oak floors, open kitchen/dining/family room, 2,688 sq.ft.

**OAKLEY** \$429,900  
3/2+ - Gorgeous home in established neighborhood. Designer colors, formal dining, family room, vaulted ceilings, 2-car garage.

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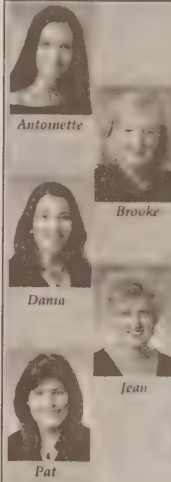
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## FEATURED HOMES



**BERKELEY**  
**1395 Grizzly Peak \$1,595,000**  
4+ BR, 2.5 BA, New Pricel! Some improvements.  
Seller motivated!  
Henriette Lanier Greene (510) 834-2010



**OAKLAND**  
**Sunday 2-5 \$1,550,000**  
1754 Manzanita Drive. New price on dramatic, new  
4BR/3.5BA construction w/bay view.  
Leah Younger (510) 339-9290



**MONTCLAIR**  
**Close To The Village! \$1,150,000**  
Montclair - Bruns Ct. 4+BR/3.5BA w/2nd unit.  
Appt. 510-693-5637  
Diane Klein (510) 527-9800



**BERKELEY**  
**Sunday 2-4:30 \$695,000**  
1208 Stannage, Berkeley. Charming 2BR Craftsman  
with 2BR au-pair and garden cottage.  
Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1487



**OAKLAND**  
**Sunday 1-4**  
8009 Michigan Ave. Immaculate 3BR  
deck, Bay views!!  
C.P. Yang (510) 834-2010

**OAKLAND**  
**Redwood Heights \$799,000**  
Lovingly maintained 3+BR/2.5BA home in  
Redwood Heights.  
MaryDresser.com (510) 339-9290

**OAKLAND**  
**Sunday 2-4 \$390,000**  
2188 Ransom Ave. 2BR/1BA Fixer w/view.  
Cherie Hunt (510) 301-6002

**Tahoe-Like Setting \$725,000**  
Tranquil 3BR/2BA Montclair contemporary  
w/serene canyon views.  
MaryDresser.com (510) 339-9290

**Sunday 2-4 \$279,000**  
425 Orange St. #106. 1BR/1BA condo.  
Sunny, close to everything.  
David Pleasants (510) 868-1400

**Sunday 1-4 \$725,000**  
6615 Gunn Drive, Montclair. 3/2  
Contemporary in wooded Tahoe-like  
setting.  
Dresser/Garlinide (510) 339-9290

**ALAMEDA**  
**Sunday 1-4:30 \$350,000**  
1715A 2nd St. 3BR/1BA Condo  
Alternative. Coop Townhome has gas Frpl  
+ private yard. (510) 868-1400

**Sunday 2-4:30 \$649,000**  
3027 Roxbury Avenue - Sunny 4BR/2BA in  
Sheffield Village w/level yard and patio.  
DavidOtero.com (510) 339-9290

**BERKELEY**

**Sunday 2-4:30 \$649,000**  
4520 Fairbairn. Pristine mid-century with  
great views, 3+BR.  
Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1487

**Elegant Retreat \$1,448,000**  
Sophisticated 3BR/3.5BA Custom retreat  
atop the desirable Claremont Hills.  
Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

**Sunday 1-4 \$480,000**  
1256 E. 33rd. Charming corner home w/  
detached home office private backyard.  
Mayling Trinh (510) 834-2010

**Sunday 1-4:30 \$639,000**  
1618 Cornell. Stylish, sparkling 3BR/2BA  
Nr. shops, restaurants, BART.  
Judith Glass/Sheila Sabine (510) 428-0900

**Sunday 1-4 \$479,000**  
4843 Fairfax Ave. 3BR/1BA Mediterranean.  
A Perfect starter home.  
Anita Becker (510) 868-1554

**Sunday 1-4 \$485,000**  
1333 67th St., 2 Bed Bungalow. Recent  
upgrades!  
Malaika Hopkinson (510) 834-2010



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**Saturday 1-4 \$729,000**  
7548 Odyssey. Gorgeous, like new 3BR+  
den. Very nice!  
Dennis Millard (510) 845-0211

**Sunday 12-3 \$515,000**  
1214 Richmond, El Cerrito. New everything  
condo w/o HOA! Ad #1695  
Jaynelle Bell (510) 206-7144

### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Mid-Century Cottage \$425,000**  
Richmond. Mid-century 1+BR/1BA cottage  
in Richmond View!  
Lucretia Jacobs (510) 339-9290

**Sunday 1-3 \$879,000**  
3729 Mission. 3 units mixed use Victorian/  
garage.  
Dylan Magierek (510) 845-0211

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2. 15-year estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$417,000 loan amount. + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value ratio of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount is approximately \$2,380. Homeowners insurance required.  
3. 30-year estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$600,000 + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment is \$2,968. Homeowners insurance is required.  
All programs are based on primary, single family residences, townhouses, and condominiums only. No prepayment penalty required. Cash out allowed up to 75% loan-to-value. Other programs may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of 1/31/06 are subject to change without notice.

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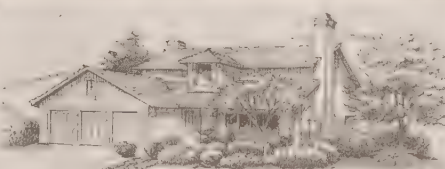


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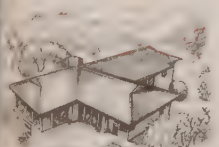


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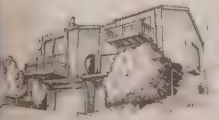
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Oakland, CA 94602  
**510.339.4000**

## OPEN HOUSE



**BERKELEY**  
**55 GYPSY LANE**

Stunning setting on half an acre for this custom built 50's classic in the Japanese style. Fine view framed by lush hillsides. Includes Treasure Island & San Francisco. A private paradise. OPEN SUN 2-4:30  
[PatriciaBennett.com](mailto:PatriciaBennett.com) 339.8400~482.9000



**MONTCLAIR**  
**2060 MANZANITA**

Stunning ceilings & windows beautifully frame north bay and Mt Diablo views. 4 bed, 3.5 bath, luxuriant custom master suite, family rm, FDR + lg rec. room. Spacious guest suite overlooking parklands. Open to Ofinda schools.  
OPEN SUN 2-4:30  
Mary Jane McConville 510.339.4280  
Photo tour @ [www.MaryJaneMcConville.com](http://www.MaryJaneMcConville.com)



**MONTCLAIR**  
**8008 Broadway Terrace**

Custom built 4bd/2.5ba w/ the finest materials. Elegant traditional w/ modern conveniences. Exceptional yard and picturesque European views. OPEN SUN 1-4:30  
Nahid Nassiri 339.8400~339.4550



**CROCKER HIGHLANDS**  
**715 ARIMO AVENUE**

Spacious 2700+sq ft historical craftsman. Large formal LR & DR w/ classic moldings & built-ins & 2 fireplaces. 3+1/5 w/ family rm & bonus rm. OPEN SUN 2-4:30  
Rosie Nysaether 339.8400~339.4567



**REDWOOD HEIGHTS**  
**3414 GUIDO STREET**

Stunning remodel of Spanish home on cul de sac known as "The Lane in Spain." 3bedrooms + studio w/ loft. OPEN SUN 1-4:30  
Mary Hanna 339.8400~339.5776



**ROCKRIDGE**  
**5334 BROADWAY**

Charming 3+bd/1+ba craftsman in Oakland's wonderful Rockridge district. Finished basement, updated kitchen & bath, refinished hwd flrs, new carpet and landscaping. OPEN SUN 12-3  
Tom Watson 339.8400~899.6364

**OAKLAND**  
**3058 MACARTHUR BLVD**

Very nice & clean duplex. Painted inside and out, very good condition, close to shops & transportation. OPEN SUN 2-4:30  
A.D. Nassiri 339.4000~899.6313



**MILLSMONT**  
**5969 MAJESTIC AVENUE**

Charming 1940's 2bd/1ba w/ 1bd/1ba in-law. Updated kitchen & baths. Gorgeous hwd flrs, lg bkcyd w/ deck, hot tub & kennel run. OPEN SUN 1-3  
Ganice Morgan-Austin 339.4000~899.6395

## APPOINTMENT



**PIEDMONT**  
**24 YORK DRIVE**

Spacious traditional in desirable Piedmont. Level 3bd/2ba, beautiful hwd flrs, FDR, family room & nice pool surrounded by lovely landscaping in private setting.  
Mary Jane McConville 510.339.4280  
Photo tour @ [www.MaryJaneMcConville.com](http://www.MaryJaneMcConville.com)



**MONTCLAIR**  
**2220 Arrowhead Drive**

Gorgeous New 3+bd/4.5ba Construction in Montclair Hills. Open layout w/ vaulted ceilings, F.I.R. & F.D.R., cooks kitch, & family rm. Patios & decks for in/out entertaining.  
Nahid Nassiri 339.8400~339.4550



**PIEDMONT PINES**  
**6340 MELVILLE DRIVE**

Serene, private location. 3bd/2ba. Charming contemp. across from regional park, refinished hwd flrs, high beamed ceilings, freshly painted in & out. Beautiful natural rock garden.  
Martha Shin 339.8400~339.4565

**OAKLAND**  
**5214 E. 12TH STREET**

Excellent opportunity to own a live/work warehouse. Consists of 3 offices or bedrooms, a tall roll up door, large garage/shop space, full kitch. 1.5ba.  
Ken Nwokedi 899.6333~485-5119

**OAKLAND**  
**3251 FLORIDA STREET**

Beautiful and charming 3bd/2ba house in a very quiet neighborhood. House is in very good condition and ready for move-in.  
A.D. Nassiri 339.4000~899.6313



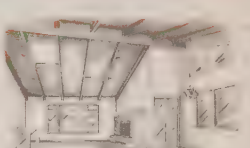
**UPPER GLENVIEW**  
**1124 HOLLYWOOD #2**

Spacious, well maintained 2bd/2ba condo in 4 unit complex. Extremely private in great Glenview loc. min. from Montclair Village, easy SF commute.  
Nahid Nassiri 339.8400~339.4550

**OAKLAND**  
**1308-1310 96TH AVENUE**

Duplex currently used as a SFR. 2bd/1ba down. Recently updated, formal living & dining rm, 3 bonus rms. Newer dual paned windows.  
Ken Nwokedi 899.6333~485.5119

## COMING SOON



**REDWOOD HEIGHTS**  
**3203 MONTEREY BOULEVARD**

Coming Soon! Panoramic Bay View and a park-like back yd are dramatic features of this spacious home. 5bd/3ba plus large rumpus room.  
Patricia Bennett 339.8400~482.9000



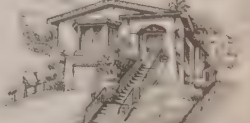
**NORTH BERKELEY**  
**180 TAMALPAIS**

1st time on the market since built in 1926. Stunning living room w/ beamed ceiling stenciled w/ lines of a poem. Spectacular bay views.  
Mary Hanna 339.8400~339.5776



**KENSINGTON**  
**256 LOS ALTOS DRIVE**

Beautiful 1950's ranch style located next to Tilden Park. 2bd/2ba & two fireplaces. Plus room can be used as spare bedroom or office.  
Michael Garza 339.8400~899.6368



**MAXWELL PARK**  
**3015 KINGSLAND AVE**

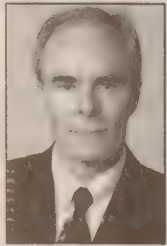
A great opportunity coming in February. A 1920's home with 3 bd, formal dining room, spacious open kitchen and partial bay view.  
Sandy Spring 339.8400~899.6226



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Open Homes



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El Cerrito CA 94530  
(510) 527.9111

289 Arlington Avenue,  
Kensington CA 94707  
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147 W Richmond Avenue,  
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(510) 231.1640



**El Cerrito** \$899,000  
Stunning Architecture! Newly reconstructed 4BR/2.5BA home in the E.C. Hills features: Striking GG Bridge view, huge master suite w/Jacuzzi, den w/shoji door, vaulted high ceilings, brand new kitchen & baths, formal dining, family room, deck, & beautifully landscaped yard.  
532 Bonnie Dr.  
Herman Sun  
Open Sun 2-4  
527-9111



**El Cerrito** \$589,000  
Adorable! Very special Mediterranean split-level. Lovingly cared for & meticulously updated. Dual-pane windows, beautiful hardwood floors, 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths PLUS a warm family room overlooking an inviting backyard w/fish pond & fruit trees. You'll love it!  
5725 Alta Punta  
Alice McLeish  
Open Sun 12-4  
527-2700 x 35



**Oakland** \$449,500  
Newly remodeled 2BR, 1.5 bath home. Freshly painted interior w/hardwood floors thruout. Kitchen glows w/granite countertops, new refrigerator, dishwasher & stove. Central heat and air conditioning, unfinished plus room for office or rec room. Deck, landscaping, automatic sprinklers.  
3505 Penniman Ave.  
Crystal Elliott  
Open Sat & Sun 2-4  
524-0800



**Kensington** \$729,000  
Beautiful, serene 3-bedroom 1949 home features lovely redwood paneling, beamed ceilings, refinished hardwood floors, large fireplace and walls of glass overlooking garden, deck & adjacent park. Large detached art studio w/French doors, skylights, electricity, plumbing. Walk the garden path to Park, Library, Kens. Hilltop Schools.  
79 Arlington Ave.  
Melissa Eizenberg  
Open Sun 1-4  
524-0800



**Berkeley** \$565,000  
Spacious, Airy, Light & Charming 2-story, 2 BR/2 BA. Large kitchen & master BR w/room for office or study. Appealing exterior, good-sized porch w/swing. Near BART, transportation & shopping.  
1807 Chestnut St.  
Diane Mintz  
Open Sun 2-5  
527-2700 x 28



**Richmond Annex** \$465,000  
Great opportunity to move into the ever-popular Richmond Annex. Convenient, comfortable and affordable two-bedroom, one-bath home. Large lot with sweet yard, detached garage, and extra storage. Move in condition.  
1522 Merced Street  
Mary Gray & Mykah Larkins  
Open Sun 2-4  
527-9111



**Glenview** \$639,000  
A wonderful home on a quiet tree-lined street. Move condition! Spacious 2 bedroom 1.5 bath with basement area. Visit this home @ kathieberg.com



**Berkeley** \$539,000  
Charming home well located near schools shopping. Fireplace in the living room, high ceilings hardwood floors, new floor in kitchen and bathroom 2br/2ba, great separate of space with 1bed/1 upstairs & 1 bed/1 bath on main level. AM garage.  
David Ratoosh  
527-9111



**Berkeley** \$399,000  
Light-filled 1BR/1BA corner unit condo. Turn remodeled w/hardwood floors, views, enormous shower. Walk to BART, campus, great restaurants. Security building w/parking & wheelchair access.  
1849 Shattuck Ave.  
Richard Morrison  
915

For more information about these properties visit [www.marvingardens.com](http://www.marvingardens.com)

# Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

and information for and area real estate community and affiliated industries FOR THE PUBLIC

**Bobby Ba.** If you are a Baby Boomer or better bring your questions to the "Early Retirement Selling Options" seminar. Understanding home sales today, effects of capital gains tax and estate planning are discussed by **William Fleming of RE/MAX**. The class is 7 to 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18. To reserve a spot call 888-777-1111 ext. 705.

**Ownership.** If you think you can't afford a home, think again. Owning a home is possible at any age. Attend "Homeownership Is Possible!" presented by **Julie Uribe of Wells & Bennett**. The class is 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8, at Wells & Bennett, Oakland. Hear about home-ownership tax breaks and equity building. Register for this free class by calling 510-485-7272.

**Home How To.** "How To Buy Your First Home" is held at **Bank in Alameda**. Come find out about the First Time Home Buyer Assistance Program. Join presenters **Alice Tsai of RE/MAX** and **Joe Bohannon** of **Century 21** for the next session, Thursday, Feb. 8, at **Bank**. Contact Tsai at **Alice@EastBayHunters.com** or call 866-667-0684.

**Questions?** Realtor **Terry Ulka** teaches "Buying Your Home With Confidence." This 90-minute Adult School class is a workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your questions about home purchases in the Oakland-Piedmont area. Go to **www.piedmontadulthoodschool.org** or call 510-339-4789 for registration and tuition information. Or just come to Room 11 tomorrow and register.

**Move-Ups.** This Berkeley workshop could be for you. "How To Buy A Home When You Already Own One" addresses making a move up purchase in this market. An explanation of bridge loans and home equity lines are given. To secure a spot in a future workshop contact **Helen Walker of Thornwall Properties** at 510-848-1950 ext. 250. No one-on-one appointments are offered.

**BY DON AND DAVE RUNYAN** U-BILD  
Realtors and Affiliates of the estate industry are often talented. Some even write

books.

Everyone is invited to attend a local book signing for my book "Clueless: Real Solutions For Men Who Don't Get It And The Women Who Love Them." Although the book is not about real estate, you might find some clues into the man-woman communication mystery. Come to **Border's Books Union Landing in Union City** at 880 and Alvarado-Niles Boulevard, 3 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 12. Mention this column, "Credit Worthy" and receive a free magnifier/bookmark. You can hear me interviewed if you tune in to the **Bob Tanem Show** on **KSFO-560-AM**, 7:30 a.m., also on Sunday, Feb. 12. Get more information at **www.BobbieReid.com**.

**Our Houses**  
Attend "Our Houses" in Alameda. From stained glass to Victorian classics, the **Alameda Museum** provides lectures for everyone who loves homes and the interior and exterior stories that go with those homes. Prominent Bay area authors and historians narrate the slide lectures. The first lecture in the series is "Take The Red Car," by **Bruce Singer and Grant Ute**. Join the presenters at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23. The presentation is a ride on the rails of the Encinal and Lincoln lines of the Southern Pacific's Alameda Electric Service. For lecture information call 510-748-0796.

**RE Careers**  
Have you ever wondered about a career in real estate? Want to know what it takes? What type of schooling is involved? How do I prepare for the exam? The answers to your questions are available through the **Noble Fields School of Real Estate**. For more information call the Oakland office at 510-451-7977 or the main office, in San Francisco at 415-956-6169.

**RE-RE-REDUCED**  
"Re-re-reduced" is a workshop and forum for Realtors. Get a crash course on appraisal guidelines and a better understanding of how to explain differences in prices. This free class is 2 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the **Mary Williams Walton Auditorium** in the OAR Building on Webster, in Oakland. Register with **Monique Washington** of **Balance Financial** at 510-452-8280.



**BOBBIE REID**  
Credit Worthy

## BROKERS WANTED

**Bob Valva** of **Valva Realty** invites Oakland real estate brokers to attend the **Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee**. According to Valva the group was appointed years ago, by the Oakland mayor to facilitate city sales and leasing. The committee's purpose is to help build Oakland. The next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 9, at the **OAR Mary Walton Williams Auditorium** on Webster. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

## ULTIMATE OPEN

Attention Real Estate Brokers! Give your agents an edge over the competition. **Veteran Business Coach Kitty Cole** offers a class on "The Ultimate Open House." Agents learn how to attract a buyer, create a checklist and more. The class is one in a 12-week series. Cole will conduct training for your office exclusively. Contact her at **kittybiz@aol.com**.

## BOBBIE HEARS

■ **Honorary member status** was bestowed on two members of the **Oakland Association of Realtors** this year. The presentation recognized longtime membership in the organization. **Bob Valva** and **Cecil Reeves**, both of **Valva Realty** were honored.

■ The **Berkeley Association of Realtors** awards outstanding achievement. Awardees for 2006 included **Gene Della Maggiora** of **Coldwell Banker** and **Rich Graf** of **Old Republic Title Company**. Maggiora is the recipient of the 2005 Realtor of the Year Award. Graf received recognition as the 2005 Affiliate of the Year.

## LET'S TALK!

Tell me about it! Fund-raisers, meetings, workshops, promotions, designations and change of scenery (company). Information deadline is two weeks before the event. Send an e-mail to **bobbierid@mindspring.com**.

# Explaining all those loan costs and fees

The mortgage industry seems to be propelling the radio, television and print advertising industry afloat all by itself. Every other commercial we hear or see promotes low-cost or no-cost mortgages and claims it has the sweetest deal around.

To listen to some of these reports, one might be led to believe that with your great credit score you can refinance your home and fix your adjustable rate mortgage and/or lower your payments and keep your principal at the same level as you started.

Of course the lender pays for all those third-party fees that are part of the process. And, as we know, they do not do this out of the goodness of their hearts.

People who do the work, the title and escrow officers, the appraisers, the underwriters, the document drawers, the processors and funders all want to be paid for the work they do.

The savvy mortgage shopper needs to know what those third party fees are and what is being paid out by the lender or mortgage broker.

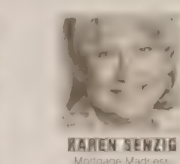
The third-party costs apply to direct lenders as well as mortgage brokers. The direct lender will have people on staff that will appraise your property, underwrite and process your loan, some even have their own title and escrow in-house, but again, they have to pay these people. Independent third party fees would fall in the following categories.

**Appraisal fee:** Independent residential appraisers are state licensed professionals for single family homes and many get the additional credentials to appraise two to four units. As independent business people they set their own fees. An owner occupied single family home can range from \$350 to \$450 for homes below a million dollars and from \$475 to \$600 above a million dollars and for complicated custom homes. Investment properties have additional fees for rental income surveys for the income approach to value.

**Credit report fees:** The usual fee for Residential Mortgage Credit Report — a "tri-merge" report from all three major credit bureaus (Experian, Equifax and TransUnion) — will cost between \$18 and \$21. And as credit repair becomes more and

more important as part of the transaction, additional fees must be absorbed by the lender or mortgage broker. To remove inaccurate information from your credit report, it will cost the mortgage broker \$25 per entry per credit reporting bureau to remove it permanently from your credit report, and then an additional fee to rescore your credit.

**Escrow fee:** The unbiased third party who controls the paperwork between all the parties involved can be based on the loan amount, although some lenders and mortgage brokers can negotiate a base



**KAREN SENZIG**  
Mortgage Madress

that they must get a custom quote). Some lenders, especially those who specialize in home equity lines of credit and second trust deeds only, require a limited liability policy, which can cost between \$100 and \$150 depending on the title company.

**Processing fee:** Sometimes called an application fee, this person gathers all of your information and processes the application. If you are fully documenting your income and assets, this person puts all those pay stubs, W2's, income tax

amount for refinances depending on the volume they bring to the escrow company.

In Southern California where escrow companies are separate from the title companies, the competition can be fierce and we have found rates as low as \$200 even for purchase transactions. In Northern California, usual escrow fees can range from \$250 to \$1800 (up to \$1 million) for a refinance, higher for purchases.

There are also miscellaneous escrow fees. These can include notary, document drawing, wire, courier and delivery fees that can add up to another \$100 to \$200.

**Title insurance fee:** This very important and expensive fee insures the owner (in a purchase) and the lender (both purchase and refinance) that the title is clear of any judgments and that the loan can take its proper position (as a first, second or third trust deed).

The schedule of fees are prepared by the title companies and then approved and published in compliance with the Insurance Code of the State of California. In a purchase, the owner's policy is based on the purchase price and can range from about \$800 to well near \$3000 with considerable discounts for properties that have changed hands with in a five year period.

The lender's policy is also discounted when closing concurrently with a new owner's policy, and can range depending on the loan amount from about \$200 to \$8950. In a refinance transaction, the lender's policy is based on the loan amount and can range from \$400 to \$2000 (up to \$1million — after

returns, bank statements and other important papers that make up your life and work and puts them in their proper order before it is submitted to the underwriter.

If you are applying for a Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac conforming loan (2006 conforming loan limits for a single family home is \$417,000), the processor will run your file electronically under Fannie Mae's Desk top Originator or Freddie Mac's Loan Prospector programs to get a preliminary electronic underwriting decision before being sent to the underwriting department. Usual processing fees run \$350 to \$600.

**Underwriting fee:** This is for that glassy-eyed person who tears through your application and paperwork and determines if you meet the requirement of the investors who are actually making the loan. Depending on the level of income and asset documentation and if the loan has a preliminary electronic decision or not, underwriting a loan can take an hour or three. Figure another \$250 for underwriting.

**Drawing and document fees:** These are the people that actually input all the data into all those papers you have to sign in escrow. With more and more lenders going to e-documents, delivery time has been expedited considerably (also known as same day docs). However, it still takes someone to do the work so add another \$200.

**Funding fee:** This department receives the signed and notarized package back from escrow and reviews the entire loan package for correct signatures, paperwork and

See SENZIG, Page B14

# Blanket chest is both pretty and practical



**BY DON AND DAVE RUNYAN** U-BILD

Combining simple country style with plenty of storage under a hinged bench seat, this handsome blanket chest and seat project is practical for almost any room in the house. From the bedroom to the family room to the hall, it holds everything from bedding and clothes to toys, boots and umbrellas. No matter where you put it, this extra seat always comes in handy.

The project calls for 18 board feet of lumber (we used oak, but other woods will work just as well), sheet of matching plywood, matching drawer pins, hinges, nails, glue and finish. The chest requires mostly straight cuts, and the few curved cuts are traced onto the lumber. Even beginners will be able to complete this project. First, the rectangular chest section is assembled using glue and nails. The back rest, arm supports and arm rests are assembled and glued to the chest. Finally, in-

stall the lid, add trim pieces and apply finish as preferred. The blanket chest and seat measures about 48 inches long by 19 inches deep by 36 inches tall at the back.

The Blanket Chest and Seat plan, No. 789, is \$9.95 and includes step-by-step instructions with photos, traceable patterns, construction diagrams, a shopping list and cutting schedule and a toll-free help line for project questions.

A package of three blanket chest plans, No. C74, is available for \$21.95 and includes this chest project and two others. A catalog picturing hundreds of do-it-yourself projects is \$2. Please include \$3 for postage and handling (except catalog-only orders) and allow about two weeks for delivery.

To order by mail, clip this article and send it with a check or money order to U-Bild Features, c/o Hills Newspapers, P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, CA 91409. To order by credit card, call 1-800-828-2453. Visit U-Bild on the Web at **u-bild.com**.

## Three Great Listings in Moraga!

**4008 Campolindo Dr**  
This fabulous 4 br/2ba home is on a .78 ac lot & backs to open space. Warm and serene with remodeled kitchen. Offered at \$1,199,000 Open Saturday and Sunday 1-4.

**158 Selborne Way**  
Great light and bright home on a flat lot in the Camino Pablo area. 4 br/2.5 ba with new carpets and paint. Offered at \$1,299,000 Open Saturday and Sunday 1-4.

New Listing!

**1960 Ascot Drive**  
This updated and stylish 3br/2ba townhouse boasts great views and an open floorplan. Enjoy a community pool and convenient location, close to shopping and top rated Moraga schools. Offered at \$599,900 Open Sat & Sun 1-4

For more photos of these properties visit [www.Orinda.com](http://www.Orinda.com)

"Elena was outstanding! She worked tirelessly to photograph our house, arrange for the gardeners, decorate and market our house. It sold in less than a week! We would definitely use Elena in the future."

John & Lisa, Lafayette Buyers & Sellers

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## Senzig

FROM PAGE B13

sets the loan up for funding. The funder makes certain that all lender conditions have been satisfied and then puts the order in for the money to be sent to escrow. Add another \$200 for the funder.

**Broker's/salesperson's commission:** OK, I know the ads all say that if you go to a direct lender there are no broker fees—but face it, somebody is getting paid. At most direct retail lenders, the loan officer's are commission only or have a small salary plus commission based on their production. The direct lender sells their interest rates at a retail level. The mortgage broker buys the interest rates at a wholesale level and resells it at a retail level.

The differential in the spread is how everybody gets paid, only the direct lender doesn't have to disclose to the borrower just what that spread is. The mortgage broker must disclose how much rebate is being paid to the broker and exactly what costs and fees are being paid by the broker and finally how much the broker is being paid.

The fees we discussed are only the non-recurring closing costs, they happen only one time and if you prefer a more favorable interest rate, can be financed over the life of the loan. To close the transaction, the borrower needs also to have their taxes and insurance up to date and will be responsible for the accrued interest on their old loan and the prepaid interest on the new loan.

The differential in the spread is how everybody gets paid, only the direct lender doesn't have to disclose to the borrower just what that spread is.

In a refinance, these "recurring closing costs" can either be financed or come out of pocket. With the majority of purchases, they are an out of pocket expense.

In any case, no matter what type of lender you visit, it is your right to examine just how much money over the life of the loan that your no-cost loan is costing you.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband, Scott. She can be reached at 510-339-8511 or e-mailed at Ksenzig@aol.com.

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1321 Ordway Street, Berkeley ~ Offered at \$725,000



Leslie Avant

510.338.1341

www.pacunion.com

## PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

BERKELEY CRAFTSMAN

OPEN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2-4PM  
OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1-3PM



1628 Bancroft Street, Berkeley ~ Offered at \$769,000



Rich Gould

510.338.1347

Lovely craftsman style 3BR/2BA with quiet elegance. Original house lifted, expanded, renovated, and restored by owner/contractor. Beautiful wood details, spacious remodeled kitchen, gorgeous baths, hardwood floors, radiant heating, Artistic feel and quality workmanship throughout. A very special home.  
View photos at [www.1628Bancroft.com](http://www.1628Bancroft.com)

Keeping track of the latest reale estate acti  
Don't miss the Weekly Sales in the Auto  
Section on page D4.

## PACIFIC UNION

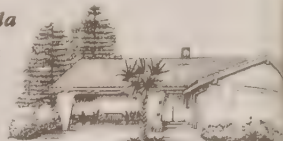
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3800 ELSTON AVENUE  
Sunny Glenview Home  
3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths - Offered at \$639,000



COMING SOON  
PIEDMONT AVENUE BUNGALOW  
Open Sunday, February 12  
2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath - Offered at \$619,000



Teri Carlisle

Senior Sales Consultant

510.338.1305

tericarlisle@pacunion.com www.pacunion.com

## sold

Spectacular sunsets and San Francisco Bay views await in this completely renovated custom three bedroom, two and one half bath home. Inviting living room, state-of-the-art kitchen, spacious master suite with soaring ceilings and luxurious bath.

Originally offered at \$1,239,000

Represented the sellers in multiple offers



14370 Skyline Boulevard  
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Office: 510.339.0400/348  
dcohen@grubbco.com



## The GRUBB Co.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

Built in 1950, this elegant home features one level living and panoramic views of Tilden Park! There are three plus bedrooms, two baths including master suite and an oversized family room. Excellent indoor/outdoor living.  
Offered at \$899,000



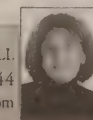
130 Latham Lane, Berkeley



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## Martha Holstlaw

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Sharp renovated 2BR/2BA condo  
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Represented the Seller

625 EL DORADO AVENUE, OAKLAND  
Piedmont Avenue area.  
Tastefully updated 1BR/1BA  
with secluded deck on a quiet street.  
Represented the Seller



# PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

**NEW PIEDMONT LISTING**  
OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2-4:30PM

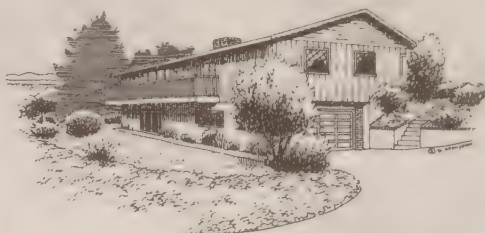


Georgia Cornell  
510.338.1325

**48 Sandringham Road, Piedmont**  
Offered at \$2,600,000

Gracious, classic colonial designed by Clarence Mayhew on over one-third of an acre. Spacious and elegant formal rooms open to lovely gardens and play areas. Four-plus bedrooms/five baths, wood-paneled library and office. Beautiful

**NEW MONTCLAIR LISTING**  
OPEN SAT. & SUN., FEB. 4 & 5, 1:30-4:30PM



Ann Nichols  
510.338.1319

**6216 Estates Drive, Oakland**  
Offered at \$1,250,000

A very special property located on a secluded cul-de-sac on the Piedmont side of Montclair featuring a level entry, spacious and sunny rooms, south bay view, and a legal "Secondary Unit," all sited on a nearly level .41 +/- acre parcel of land. 4++ bedrooms, 3.5 baths, family room off kitchen, wood floors, vaulted ceiling, and indoor access from a large two car garage. A rare find!

**NEW MONTCLAIR LISTING**  
OPEN SAT. & SUN., FEB. 4 & 5, 1-4PM



Anna Costella  
510.338.1355

**5876 Ascot Drive at Chelton, Oakland**  
Offered at \$869,000

Bright Southern sun and bay views are an inspiration in this charming 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home. The level entry through the oak studded garden, random plank hardwood floors and 2 fireplaces create a calming atmosphere. The kitchen with granite & stainless appliances, and the baths have been tastefully remodeled with quality! Outdoor living consists of 3 decks, patio and level yard area. Close to schools and the Village. Photos @ www.pacunion.com.



Joan Dark  
510.338.1316

**PIEDMONT AVENUE CRAFTSMAN**  
OPEN SAT. & SUN., FEB. 4 & 5, 2-4:30PM



**96 Montell Street, Oakland**  
Offered at \$525,000

Welcome to one of Oakland's most sought after neighborhoods! This 1923 craftsman bungalow was built with all the charm of yesteryear: hardwood floors, crown moldings, built-in china cabinets, bookcases around the original brick fireplace. Cooking will be fun on the 1930s O'Keefe & Merritt stove. French doors to deck and fountain. The house sings with the colors of Tuscany and Provence and lifts your heart with its charm and grace. Its beauty is striking. One bedroom and one bath.

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30

**PIEDMONT** \$2,600,000  
**48 SANDRINGHAM RD.**  
New Listing! Gracious, classic colonial on over 1/3 acre. Lovely gardens and play areas. 4+BR/5BA, wood-paneled library & office. Beautiful! Georgia Cornell x1325

**PIEDMONT** \$875,000  
**124 RONADA AVE.** (Open Sat & Sun)  
Cozy cottage, huge lot! 2BR/1BA, formal dining. Large kitchen w/custom hickory cabinets. Large, level yard. Garage converted to studio/office. Dana Dworin x1384 & Debi Fitzgerrell x1306



**BERKELEY** \$725,000  
**1321 ORDWAY ST.** (Open 1-3:30)  
Charming 2BR/1BA bungalow. Tastefully updated. Spacious kitchen/family room opening onto wonderful garden & patio. Near shopping & BART. Leslie Avant x1341



**NORTH OAKLAND** \$649,000  
**581 59TH ST.**  
New Listing! 2BR/1BA main house & 3 attached plus rooms w/separate entrance. There's even a barn in the back for possible conversion to artist work space. Super large lot. Tom Neneh x1381

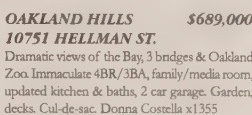


**PIEDMONT AVENUE** \$525,000  
**96 MONTELL ST.** (Open Sat & Sun)  
1923 craftsman bungalow. 1BR/1BA, hardwood floors, crown moldings, built-ins, brick fireplace. French doors to deck and fountain. Jeffrey Neideman x1385 & Joan Dark x1316

**PIEDMONT** \$1,350,000  
**231 BONITA AVE.**  
Country charm! 4BR/2++BA. First-floor master suite. Newly done granite counters. Bay views. Nicely landscaped, level backyard, 2-car garage with shop. Debi Fitzgerrell x1306



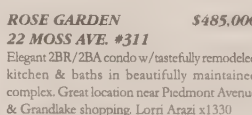
**MONTCLAIR** \$869,000  
**5876 ASCOT DR.** (Open Sat & Sun, 1-4)  
New Listing! Southern sun, bay views & privacy. 3BR/2 remodeled baths & one half bath. Remodeled kitchen. Level entry, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, dual paneled windows. Donna Costella x1355



**ROCKRIDGE** \$689,000  
**5351 BELGRAVE PL. #2B** (Open Sat & Sun)  
Gracious 2BR/2BA condominium w/stunning views of San Francisco, 3 bridges & the Oakland hills. Spacious living room w/fireplace & bar. Formal dining. Martha Holstlaw x1312



**GLENVIEW** \$639,000  
**3800 ELSTON AVE.** (Open Sat & Sun)  
Sunny light filled 3BR/3BA home w/expansive views. Open flowing floor plan. Updated kitchen opens to deck & patio. Carla Buffington x1367 & Teri Carlisle x1305



**OAKLAND HILLS** \$329,000  
**720H CANYON OAKS DR.** (Open Sat 1-3)  
Open Saturday only. Top floor 1BR/1BA condo with 2 decks, fireplace in living room, in unit laundry & view of the trees & deer. Close to hiking trails. Kathy Flynn x1317



**MONTCLAIR** \$1,250,000  
**6216 ESTATES DR.** (Open Sat & Sun)  
New Listing! Open 1:30-4:30. Piedmont side of Montclair. Level entry, spacious rooms, bay view, wrap-around decks & legal "secondary unit." 4++BR/3BA. Joe Souch x1332 & Ann Nichols x1319



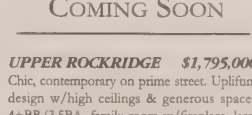
**BERKELEY** \$769,000  
**1628 BANCROFT WY.** (Open Sat & Sun)  
Lovely craftsman style 3BR/2BA. Original house lifted, expanded & restored. Beautiful wood details, spacious kitchen, gorgeous baths, radiant heating. Rich Gould x1347



**SAN LEANDRO** \$669,000  
**365 WARWICK AVE.** (Open 1-4)  
Fascinating Broadmoor Farmhouse. Split level 3BR/1.5BA home. Formal dining room, bonus room. Large lot w/detached workshop & fruit trees. Michelle Miller x1335



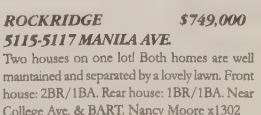
**ALBANY** \$578,000  
**925 HILLSIDE AVE.**  
Beautiful Albany Hills condo featuring dramatic floor plan, open cathedral ceiling, 2BR/1.5BA, dining room, study, updated kitchen & secluded patio. Rosalie Woods x1324



**PIEDMONT AVENUE** \$619,000  
Outstanding 2BR/1BA 1910 tastefully updated bungalow. Updated kitchen opens to deck & garden. 2 car garage, great storage, many upgrades. Teri Carlisle x1305



**PIEDMONT AVENUE** \$875,000  
**1 MONTE CRESTA AVE.**  
Classic Brown Shingle recently remodeled. 3BR/1BA gourmet kitchen, living room & dining room with fireplace. Separate area for office with full bath. Fully landscaped. Ashley O'Neill x1368



**ROCKRIDGE** \$749,000  
**5115-5117 MANILA AVE.**  
Two houses on one lot! Both homes are well maintained and separated by a lovely lawn. Front house: 2BR/1BA. Rear house: 1BR/1BA. Near College Ave. & BART. Nancy Moore x1302



**PIEDMONT** \$1,150,000  
Traditional charm & quality upgrades in this extensively remodeled home. Stunning "great room," 3+BR/2BA, level out to lovely garden. Some bay views. Georgia Cornell x1325



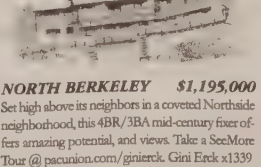
**EL CERRITO** \$825,000  
Stylish 3+BR/2.5BA townhome in Mira Vista Country Club w/fabulous Bay views across golf course. Spacious light-filled rooms, fireplace in family room. Large master. Leslie Avant x1341



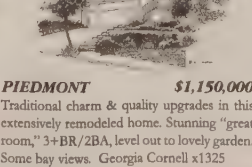
**UPPER LAUREL** \$629,000  
Charming & spacious traditional style home. 3BR/1BA, formal dining room, large eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors. Wonderful front & rear yards. Diane E. McCan x1352



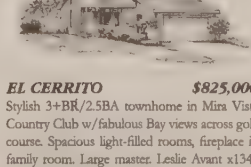
**PIEDMONT** \$1,595,000  
Magnificent, spacious traditional with bay & city views. Formal dining, spectacular kitchen w/adjoining family room, 4BR/3BA, level out patio w/BBQ. 2-car garage. Sheila Gallagher x1383



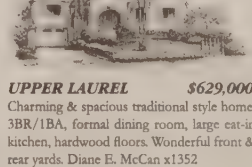
**ADAMS POINT** \$985,000  
Large, spacious units retaining original architectural details. Three flats in front building: 2-2BR/1BA, 1-3BR/1BA. Detached 1BR/1BA updated cottage. Large lot. Jeffrey Himmel x1307



**BERKELEY** \$995,000  
North Berkeley Hills Monterey style 3BR/2.5BA with expansive bay & bridge views. Charming original detail, wonderful brick fireplace & vaulted beam ceiling. Level yard. Leslie Avant x1341

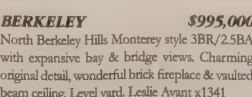


**MONTCLAIR LOT** \$625,000  
Permit for very marketable home is ready to be pulled. Modern downslope to the left of 6452 Farallon. On a desirable end of cul-de-sac w/other high-end homes. Filtered bay views. David Ichikawa x1331

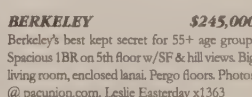
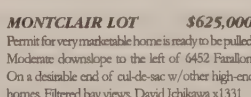


**BERKELEY** \$245,000  
Berkeley's best kept secret for 55+ age group! Spacious 1BR on 5th floor w/SF & hill views. Big living room, enclosed lanai. Pergo floors. Photos @ pacunion.com. Leslie Easterday x1363

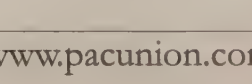
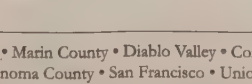
**ADAMS POINT** \$1,199,000  
Rare 1906 updated Brown Shingle fourplex plus non-conforming junior 1BR. Scheduled setting, convenient location. One large studio, two 1BR/1BA, one 4BR/1+BA. Jeffrey Himmel x1307



By APPOINTMENT



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# The GRUBB Co.



**22 MESA AVENUE** \$2,690,000  
This wonderful central Piedmont traditional home is in a great location, close to schools and transportation. 5BR upstairs, a great family room off the kitchen & level out to a lovely sunny garden. Anian Pettit Tunney



**180 SANDRINGHAM ROAD** \$2,375,000  
Mediterranean perfection, remodeled throughout. 5BR/4.5BA with an au pair suite. Beautiful details, stately formal rooms, gourmet kitchen & great cul de sac location. Kurt Buchholz

## PIEDMONT OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



**27 MUIR AVENUE** \$1,995,000  
Spacious & beautiful stately traditional w/touches of Craftsman details throughout. 4BR/4.5BA. Hardwood floors. Lovely kitchen/family room. Level property w/ spacious sunny rear garden. Mindy Scott



**39 WILDWOOD AVENUE** \$1,395,000  
This charming Cape Cod 4+BR/2.5BA has a beautiful detailed entry, spacious formal rooms, updated sunny breakfast area, large family room. Mindy Scott



**46 MONTICELLO AVE.** \$1,100,000  
Piedmont jewel. Lovely shingle w/charming leaded windows, beamed ceilings, hardwood floors, updated kitchen & baths. One level living room by private patio & garden. Elizabeth D.

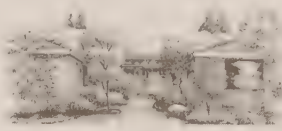
## OAKLAND OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



**1030 WINSOR AVENUE** \$1,025,000  
Elegant & pristine 4BR/3BA! Professional chef's kitchen! Master suite w/sunroom & deck. Great room w/ kitchenette, BR & BA (au-pair). Karthiga Anandan



**6380 WOOD DRIVE** \$1,095,000  
Fabulous & redesigned throughout. Chef's kitchen w/ designer appliances & adjacent family room opening to patio & terraced garden. Two master suites w/exquisite baths. Fireplace in living room & SF views. Karen Starr



**2223 TUNNEL ROAD** \$1,460,000  
Private & elegant 2BR/3BA. Living areas flow onto huge decks. Perfectly appointed home office, dance studio, unique quality details with a city view. Carolyn Jones

**5437 SHAFTER AVENUE** \$935,000  
Classic bungalow w/modern flourishes! Spacious, stylish & light! 3BR/1BA + gorgeous studio + bath makes perfect home office! Pretty landscaped gardens! Faye Keogh

**972 AILEEN STREET** \$767,000  
Sweet 3BR bungalow w/separate 2BR cottage - loaded w/charm! Exciting Oakland/Emeryville border. Zoned as duplex. Condo conversion possibility. Ruth Frassetto



**9 MOSS AVENUE** \$639,000  
Charming & well maintained 3BR/1BA Craftsman. Original details: hardwood floors, classic French door moldings. Au pair w/separate entry. Anthony



**2921 MONTICELLO AVE.** \$559,000  
Perfectly remodeled California bungalow w/wood floors, fireplace & gleaming hardwood floors. 1BA. Bonus space with half bath. Wonderful terraced gardens. Hope B.

## BERKELEY & EL CERRITO - OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



**890 GRIZZLY PEAK BLVD** \$1,775,000  
New construction w/Bay views & open floorplan! Luxurious master suite + 3 additional BR, formal dining room, large kitchen/family room, attached garage & sunny gardens! Close to Tilden Park. Bebe McRae



**130 LATHAM LANE** \$899,000  
A beautiful mid-century home. Situated on a promontory overlooking Tilden Park. Open & light-filled 3BR/2BA incl. master suite & spacious family room. Indoor/outdoor living. Oversized lot. Carolyn Jones Susie Schevill



**682 ENSENADA AVE.** \$750,000  
Charming & spacious 2BR/1BA bungalow w/wood floors, kitchen & bath, formal dining room. Lovely garden level, close to shops & parks. Great Thousand Oaks neighborhood. Move-in condition. Bebe McRae



**2945 CLAREMONT BLVD.** \$1,595,000  
Ideally located Claremont Ct. traditional. Formal living room & dining room level-out to gardens. 4BR/2BA up, incl. master retreat. 5th BR on main level. Steve Michaelides

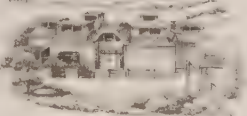


**7238 CUTTING BLVD.** \$850,000  
EL CERRITO. This beautiful renovated one-level Cape Cod 3BR/2BA in the El Cerrito Hills is a rare find! Easy indoor/outdoor access. Luxurious master suite. Helene Barkin



**2520 TULARE AVE.** \$799,000  
EL CERRITO. Lovely Mediterranean in sought after Vista. Gorgeous kitchen & beautiful spacious living room. Large garden & views of SF Bay. Ruth Frassetto

## SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT



**GORGEOUS VIEWS!** \$2,800,000  
BERKELEY. Magnificent executive retreat plus adjacent vacant lot! Panoramic views, exceptional craftsmanship, maximum privacy! 5BR/3.5BA. Large detached office, beautiful landscaping. 3-car garage. Bebe McRae



**PIEDMONT TRADITIONAL** \$1,250,000  
PIEDMONT. Lovely 3+BR/2BA home with beautiful formal rooms & a cheery eat-in kitchen leading to the large deck & garden. Great location near Piedmont schools and SF transportation. Linda McClain



**SUNNY & LEVEL W/VIEW** \$795,000  
OAKLAND. Refreshing mid-century modern w/contemporary w/lots of light. Level in & out to garden & level play area. Partial Bay view & just to Montclair Village. Debra



**CLAREMONT COURT** \$2,150,000  
BERKELEY. Grand Claremont Court traditional! Large proportions & beautiful details! 4BR + 2 separate guest or au-pair quarters! Space for everyone in a covered neighborhood! Close to shops & BART. Bebe McRae



**PIEDMONT MEDITERRANEAN** \$1,095,000  
PIEDMONT. A truly beautiful traditional in central Piedmont awaits. This property (c.1926) offers beautiful moldings, hardwood floors & lovely windows. The updated kitchen overlooks the garden. 3BR + office. Anian Pettit Tunney



**MID CENTURY MODERN** \$760,000  
BERKELEY. Mid-Century Modern. Terrific 3BR home w/views of SF & the Bay. One level. Garage w/interior access. Diane V.



**UPPER ROCKRIDGE** \$1,674,000  
OAKLAND. Stunning classic Mediterranean in Upper Rockridge. Light filled rooms, Golden Gate view, gracious floor plan, lovely gardens, 4BR/3+BA. Elizabeth Dickson



**OAKLAND HILLS** \$749,000  
OAKLAND. UPDATED 3BR/2BA contemporary w/wonderful floor plan. Entertain in the gracious living room w/fireplace & dining area. Beautifully remodeled kitchen, spacious family room opens to garden. Mavis Delcroix



**PANORAMIC VIEWS** \$750,000  
BERKELEY. 2BR/2BA split-level w/dramatic Bay views w/an intimate-yet-expansive feel reminiscent of a resort. Close to nature, town & campus. The B.



**ELMWOOD DUPLEX** \$1,450,000  
BERKELEY. Golden duplex in splendid condition! Fully updated Craftsman w/5BR/4BA in main unit; spectacular home office & full bath in smaller unit! Close to shops and BART! Bebe McRae



**REDWOOD HEIGHTS** \$795,000  
OAKLAND. PRIDE of ownership is evident in this 3BR/2BA Mediterranean, recently remodeled & expanded. Details include matchstick hardwood floors & beautifully updated kitchen & baths w/granite & stone. Mavis Delcroix



**CARMEL CHARM** \$699,000  
KENSINGTON. Lovely English style architecture on a beautiful street. Grand formal rooms, 2BR/1BA w/decks. Close to shops & schools. Ruth Frassetto

**PIEDMONT AVE. CONDO** \$399,000  
OAKLAND. OUTSTANDING 1BR/1BA condo in a prime building. Large, private outdoor patio. Dan

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### Mixed Use

3721 Grand Ave. Oakland



**This mixed use property** includes 2 retail spaces, an office in a separate cottage, and two apartments. The apartments are a one bedroom and a spacious 2 bedroom. The retail space has a fireplace and a high beamed ceiling. Perfect for an owner user who may want to live in one of the apartments.

**Anne Bruff** \$1,300,000  
510 594 7455 ext. 200

### Miller Warnecke Fourplex

460-462 Merritt, Oakland



**Classic building**, perfect for pied-a-terre, investment, family compound. Large units, ranging up to 1700 sq. ft., with hardwood floors, Georgian fireplaces, formal dining rooms, breakfast rooms, views. Oversized lot has beautiful mature landscaping. Units have walk-in closets, off-street parking and extra storage. Designed by Miller Warnecke.

**Anne Bruff** \$1,895,000  
510 594 7455 ext. 200

**A sampling of our current listings:**

#### San Pablo

Cute 3bd/1ba home -- hardwood floors, new double pane windows, tiled kitchen and bath. Roof is 5 years old. White picket fence front yard and many fruit trees in backyard \$425,000

#### San Francisco -- Mission

Beautiful 3-unit Edwardian. 2 bdr units, wonderfully updated 3bd top floor unit with views to Twin Peaks. Ideal investment or as TICs (two units vacant at COE). \$1,795,000

#### Mill Valley

Charming 4 bd, 1 ba home in popular Sycamore Park close to schools, rec center, downtown & more. Refinished floors and new paint inside and outside facade. Use as is or bring your imagination. There's lots of potential. \$950,000

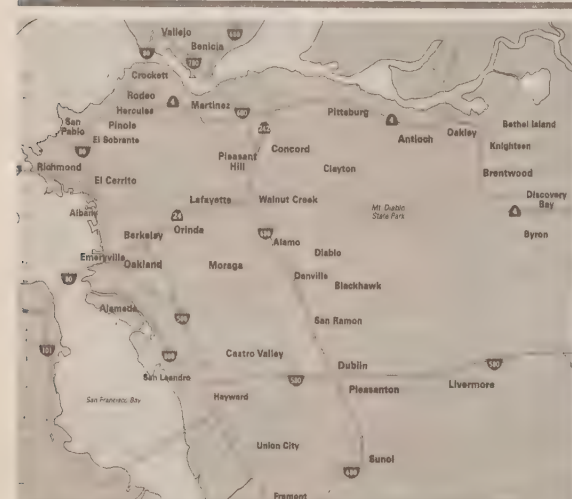
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## Weekend OPEN HOMES

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<b>Alameda</b>	<b>Alameda</b>
\$389,000 325 Kitty Hawk Rd #213 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4 Alameda Realty	\$729,000 305 Court St. 4 BD/2.5 BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty
\$415,000 960 Shorepoint Ct. #111 2BD/2BA Sat 2-4 Kane & Associates	\$769,000 815 Santa Clara Ave. 3+bd/2ba Sat/Sun 2-4 West End Gallagher & Lindsey
\$420,000 1170 9th Street #17 1 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 Gold Coast Edge P. Dimacali	\$843,000 2813 Bayview Dr. 3 BD/2.5 BA Sat 1-4 Alameda Realty
\$425,000 1170 9th Street #36 1BD/1BA Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates	\$845,000 131 Diapian Bay 3 BD/2 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates
\$425,000 960 Shorepoint Ct. #118 2 BD/2 BA Sat & Sun 2-4 Alameda Realty	\$890,000 1713-1715 9th Street two houses Sat 2-4 West End Gallagher & Lindsey
\$440,000 325 Kitty Hawk Rd #210 2BD/2BA Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates	\$929,000 134 Gainsborough Ct 4bd/2+ba Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Harbor Bay Prudential Piedmont
\$449,000 339 Broadway #101 2 BD/1 BA Sat 1-4 Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes	\$1,150,000 207 Anderson Rd. 4 BD/2.5 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Isle
\$499,000 2137 Otis Dr. #322 2BD/2BA Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates	\$1,195,000 1161 Bay St. 3 BD/2.5 BA Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates
\$548,000 1813 Lincoln Ave. 2 BD/1 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Central Alameda Harbor Bay Realty	\$1,450,000 1712 Palmera Ct. 4 BD/3 BA Sat 2-4 Gold Coast Harbor Bay Realty
\$575,000 3430 Camanoe Ln. 2 BD/2 BA Sat 2-4:30 510-522-5827, 510-847-2638 Bayside Real Estate	\$1,530,000 2963 Sea View Pkwy 4 BD/3 BA Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty
\$579,000 1717 Oak St. 2BD/1BA Sat & Sun 2-4 Centennial Real Estate	<b>Albany</b>
\$579,000 1717 Oak St. 2BD/1BA Sat & Sun 2-4 Centennial Real Estate	\$325,000 417 Evelyn #105 1bd/1ba Open Sun 2-4 Security Pacific R.E.
\$589,000 340 Lincoln Ave. 2 BD/1 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 West End 510-814-4964/814-4874 Harbor Bay Realty	\$405,000 417 Evelyn #203 2bd/2ba Open Sun 2-4 Security Pacific R.E.
\$595,000 1033 College Ave. 2 BD/1 BA Sat 2-4 East End 510-814-4714 / 814-4846 Harbor Bay Realty	\$415,000 417 Evelyn #101 2bd/2ba Open Sun 2-4 Security Pacific R.E.
\$599,950 1110 Ironwood Rd. 2 BD/2 BA Sat & Sun 1-4 Bay Farm Island 510-755-4003 Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes	\$450,000 417 Evelyn #102 3bd/2ba Open Sun 2-4 Security Pacific R.E.
\$620,000 2170 Pacific Avenue 3bd/1ba Sat/Sun 2-4 Central 510-749-1148/749-1105 Gallagher & Lindsey	\$529,500 827 Jackson Street 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
\$660,000 776 Lincoln Avenue 2 BD/1 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Central 510-748-1125 Gallagher & Lindsey	\$549,000 791 Taft Ave. B 2 BD/2.5 BA Sat & Sun 2-4:30 Keiko McDonoh, Broker
\$669,000 5 Sanderling Ct. 3 BD/2.5 BA Sat & Sun 1-4 West End 510-755-4003 Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes	\$578,000 925 Hillside 2BD/L5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential
\$689,000 1718 Lafayette St. 3 BD/2 BA Sat/Sun 2-4 Central Alameda 510-814-4892 Harbor Bay Realty	\$599,000 1061 Cornell Ave 2bd/1ba Open Sun 1-4:30 Red Oak Realty
\$690,000 25 Eclipse Court 2BD/2BA Sun 2-4 510-331-5480 Kane & Associates	\$849,000 726 Gateview Ave 3bd/2ba Open Sun 2-5pm Choice Properties
\$699,000 2430 Webb Ave. 3BD/2BA Sat 2-4 510-681-5249 Alameda Realty	

<b>Berkeley</b>	<b>Berkeley</b>	<b>Berkeley</b>
\$277,000 2550 Dana St. 4D 1bd/1ba Open Sun 1-3 (Senior 55+ Co-op) 510-848-1950x246 Thornwall Properties	\$725,000 1321 Ordway 2BD/1BA Open Sun 1-3:30 Pacific Union Residential	\$1,775,000 890 Grizzly Peak Boulevard 4bd/4ba Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
\$539,000 2207 Russell 2bd/2ba Open Sun 2-4 Marvin Gardens	\$750,000 682 Ensenada Avenue 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	<b>Dublin</b>
\$550,000 1707 Fairview 3bd/1ba Open Sun 1-4 Bay Area Berkeley Properties	\$769,000 1628 Bancroft Way 3BD/2BA Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential	\$729,000 7548 Odyssey Starward Prudential
\$565,000 1807 Chestnut St 2bd/2ba Open Sun 2-5 Marvin Gardens	\$899,000 130 Latham Lane 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	<b>El Cerrito</b>
\$589,000 1233 Dwight Way 3bd/2ba Open Sun 2-4 Central Berkeley Northbrae	\$925,000 2564 Buena Vista Way 2bd/2ba Open Sun 1-4 Red Oak Realty	\$435,000 6806 Gladys Ave. 2bd/2ba Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker
\$615,000 2012B Hearst Ave 3bd/1.5ba Open Sun 2-5 Red Oak Realty	\$1,200,000 55 Gypsy Lane 4+bd/3ba Open Sun 2-4:30 Better Homes Montclair	\$589,000 5725 Alta Punita 2bd/2ba Open Sun 12-4 Marvin Gardens
\$639,000 1618 Cornell Ave 3bd/2ba Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	\$1,385,000 1937 Capistrano 4bd/2ba Sat/Sun 1-4 Thousand Oaks Keller Williams Berkeley	\$589,000 8514 Terrace Dr. 2bd/2ba Open Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker
\$669,000 1368 Henry St 2bd/2ba Open Sun 1-4 Gourmet Ghetto Millstein & Associates	\$1,425,000 951 Alvarado Rd. 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 12-3 Pacific Union GMAC	\$735,000 1659 Arlington Rd. 4bd/4ba Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors
\$685,000 2441-2443 McKinley 2bd/2+ba Open Sun 2-4 Red Oak Realty	\$1,595,000 2945 Claremont Boulevard 5BD/3.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Claremont Court The Grubb Co.	\$769,000 1001 Richmond St 2bd/2ba Open Sat 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker Bartels
\$695,000 1208 Stannage Ave 4bd/2+ba Sun 2-4:30pm Westbrae Prudential Berkeley	\$1,699,000 1039 Amto Dr. 4BD/4.5BA Open Sun 12-3 Alain Pinel Realtors	\$850,000 7238 Cutting Boulevard Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.

## Where is your dream home?

**Real Estate & Home**

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]  
Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B8]

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Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section. The first place to look when looking for a new home.

## New Listings

**1001 RICHMOND ST., EL CERRITO**  
#016 - BEAUTIFUL HOME - Built in 2005, hardwood floors, skylight, window covers. Beautiful landscaping, close to transportation & shopping  
**\$789,000**

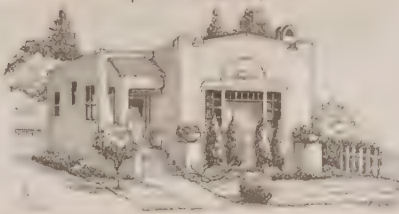
**334 N. WILDWOOD, HERCULE**  
#013 - TASTEFULLY REMODELED LIGHT AND BRIGHT home with pergola in kitchen and bathrooms. New interior paint. Private patio area w/open views. Custom blinds throughout. Ready to move in  
**\$525,000**

**3973 SELMI GROVE, RICHMOND**  
#362 - 4 YEARS NEW. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths in beautiful Hilltop beside living neighborhood. Community with pride and purpose. Great value!! BEST BUY  
**\$670,000**

**El Cerrito (510) 232-0281**  
**Richmond (510) 232-1462**  
**Pineville (510) 758-8050**  
**www.bartelsrealtors.com**

## THORNWALL PROPERTIES INC

Open Sunday 1-3 pm

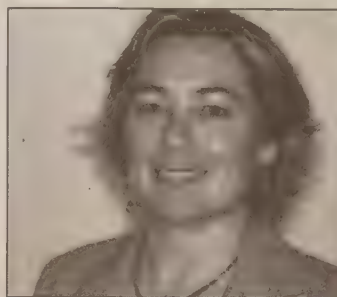


► **\$469,000 • 1315 E. 32nd Street, Oakland**  
Stylish Starter with All the Right Stuff  
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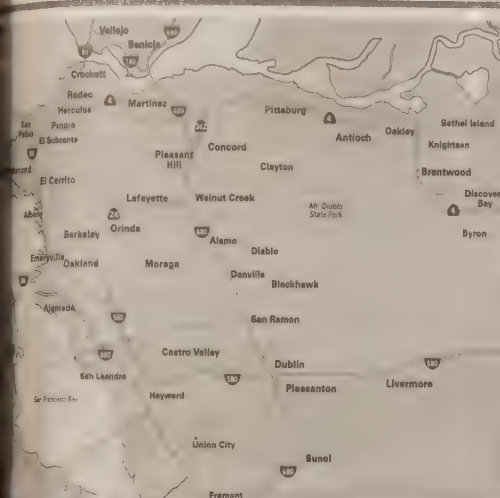


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# Weekend OPEN HOMES

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Oakland		
\$549,950	7633 Greenly Dr	2BD/1BA Open Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel
\$559,000	2521 Monticello Avenue	3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
\$569,000	7971 Sanford St	3bd/1ba Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Keller Williams Realty
\$580,000	7008 Spencer St. # A,B,C	3BD/1BA Sun 1-5 Prudential CA Realty
\$580,000	7008 Spencer St. # A,B,C	3BD/1BA Sat 1-5 Prudential CA Realty
\$639,000	3800 Elston	3BD/3BA Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential
\$649,000	3027 Roxbury Ave	4bd/2ba Sun 2-4:30 Prudential Montclair
\$649,000	3058 MacArthur Blvd	DUPEX Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes
\$649,000	4520 Fairbairn	3+bd/1+ba Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential
\$649,000	581 59th St.	2BD/1BA+au pair Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential
\$659,000	9 Moss Avenue	4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
\$669,000	4250 Maple Ave.	3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker
\$689,000	10751 Hellman	4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential
\$689,000	5351 Belgrave #2B	2BD/2BA Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential
\$725,000	6815 Gunn Dr	3bd/2ba Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential
\$729,000	3414 Guido St	3+bd/1ba Open Sun 1-4 Montclair Better Homes
\$729,000	4751 Fair Ave.	2 BD/1.5 BA Sun 1-4 Rose Marie Bero
\$749,000	5115-17 Manila	2 Houses Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential
\$767,000	972 Alleen Avenue	3+BD/2+BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
\$780,000	4630 San Sebastian Ave.	3BD/1BA Open Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker
\$794,000	1937 Magellan Dr.	2+BD/2BA Open Sun 12-3 Alain Pinel Realtors
\$799,000	4242 Norton Ave	3+bd/2.5ba Sun 2-4:30 Prudential
\$799,000	4755 Geranium Place	4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Intero Real Estate
\$829,000	339 Palm Avenue	3BD/2BA Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors
\$859,000	715 Arimo Ave	3+bd/1.5ba Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes
\$869,000	5876 Ascot Dr.	3BD/2.5BA Open Sat/Sun 1-4 Pacific Union Residential
\$875,000	96 Monte Cresta	3BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential
\$879,000	2630 Carisbrook Dr	4bd/3ba Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
\$935,000	5437 Shafter Avenue	3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge
\$995,000	8008 Broadway Terrace	4bd/2.5ba Open Sun 1-4:30 Montclair Better Homes

Oakland		
\$390,000	2188 Ransom Ave.	2 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 Prudential CA Realty
\$399,000	371 30th St #402	1bd/1ba Open Sun 1-5 Elena Stone, R.E. Broker
\$400,000	9866 Koford Rd.	2 BD/1 BA Sat 12-2 Gallagher & Lindsey
\$415,000	3825 High St. #110	2bd/2ba Open Sat 1-4pm Prudential
\$417,000	398 Adams St. #306	2bd/2ba Open Sun 2-4 Marquez & Assoc.
\$419,000	846 35th St.	2 BD/2 BA Sat & Sun 1-4 Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes
\$449,500	3505 Pennington Ave	2bd/1.5ba Open Sun 2-4 Marvin Gardens
\$449,900	46 Spyglass Hill	1BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker
\$456,000+	3220-3234 Linden St	4 Units Open Sun 1-3 Red Oak Realty
\$469,000	1315 E. 32nd St	2+bd/1ba Open Sun 2-4 Thornwall Properties
\$479,000	4843 Fairfax Ave	3bd/1ba Open Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential
\$479,000	875 42nd St.	3 BD/1 BA Sat 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty
\$485,000	22 Moss #311	2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential
\$499,000	1742 12th Avenue	3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 East Oakland
\$519,000	3214 Millsview Ave	3BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Maxwell Park
\$525,000	5969 Majestic Ave	2bd/1ba Open Sun 11-3 Millmont
\$525,000	96 Montell	1BD/1BA Sat/Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential
\$544,000	2015 E. 28th St.	2+ BD/2 BA Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates
\$549,000	2126 41st Avenue	2BD/1.25 BA Sun 2-4:30 Fruitvale
\$549,000	3280 Butters Drive	2BD/1BA Open Sun 1-5 Joquin/Miller
\$549,000	831-833 Athens Ave.	(2) 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4pm Lake Merritt Realty

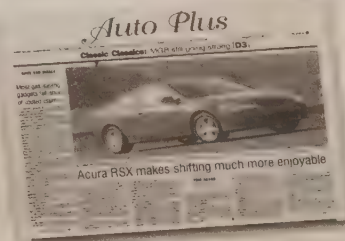
Oakland		
\$1,025,000	1030 Winsor Avenue	4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
\$1,075,000	2060 Manzanita	4bd/4ba Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes
\$1,095,000	6380 Wood Drive	2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
\$1,425,000	2100 Arrowhead Dr.	4BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4:15 Coldwell Banker
\$1,460,000	2223 Tunnel Road	2BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Claremont Hills
\$1,550,000	1754 Manzanita Dr	4bd/3.5ba Open Sun 2-5 Prudential Montclair
\$1,674,000	5801 Buena Vista Avenue	4BD/3+BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
\$1,995,000	12363 Skyline Blvd.	5BD/5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 ERA Home Traditions

Piedmont		
\$2,690,000	22 Mesa Avenue	5BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.
\$649,000	77 Vine Ave.	2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker
\$438,888	525 28th St	2bd/1ba Open Sun 2-4 Red Oak Realty
\$465,000	1522 Merced St	2bd/1ba Sun 2-4 Marvin Gardens
\$465,000	2532 Beach Head Wy	2bd/2.5ba Open Sun 2-4 Point Realty
\$588,000	1111 Greystone	3bd/2.5 Sun 2-4pm Coldwell Banker Bartels
\$650,000	1606 Daisy	4bd/2.5ba Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels
\$670,000	3973 Selmi Grove	4bd/2.5ba Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels
\$683,000	1015 Red Hawk Ct	4bd, 2.5ba Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker Bartels

Orinda		
\$1,095,000	35 La Cuesta Rd.	4BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker

San Francisco		
\$899,000	850 Rockdale Dr.	2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker
\$509,000	426 Warden Ave.	3 BD/1.5 BA Sat 2-4:30 Alameda Realty
\$669,000	365 Warwick	3BD/1+BA Open Sun 1-4 Pacific Union Residential
\$540,000	197 Novato St.	3 BD/1.5 BA Sat 1-4 Bayside Real Estate

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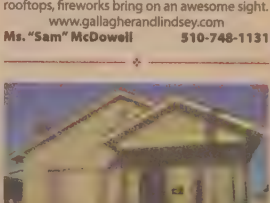
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# SPORTS

• Friday, February 3, 2006 •

Section C

## Around the horn

### Tough race

It's crowded at the top of the Bay Shore Athletic League girls basketball standings. At press time, three teams are within a half-game at the top of the league and five teams are within two games of each other. St. Mary's leads the league with a 7-1 record, followed by Piedmont and St. Patrick-St. Vincent, which both have 6-1 records. Albany (5-2) is fourth, followed by Kennedy (5-3). Who will come out the winner is anyone's guess. Already, St. Mary's beat Piedmont 53-49, Piedmont topped St. Patrick 68-55 and St. Patrick edged St. Mary's 60-55.

— Phil Jensen

### Berkeley lineman signs

Berkeley High School football player William Mitchell signed a letter-of-intent Wednesday to play football at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, according to goody.com. Mitchell, a 6-foot-1, 280-pound defensive lineman, had 13 sacks and 31 tackles for losses last season. He also caused four fumbles, recovered three, and had 74 total tackles.

— Phil Jensen

### Half way home

The Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League had both girls and boys basketball complete the first half of play on Tuesday. Pinole Valley looked as if it had firm control of the boys race until De Anza beat the Spartans 76-67 on Tuesday. The win created a first-place tie with De Anza and Pinole Valley, who are both 6-1. El Cerrito and Richmond are tied for third with 5-2 marks. Alameda, Berkeley and Hercules are all tied with a 2-5 record. Enid is still seeking its first league win. On the girls side, Pinole Valley is leading with a 7-0 mark. Berkeley (6-1), El Cerrito (5-2) and Alameda (4-3) are all lurking behind the Spartans. Hercules, Richmond and Enid follow, and De Anza is still looking for its first league win. League play ends Feb. 24.

— Robert Jordan

### Flood, McGee to be honored

Willie McGee and the late Curt Flood, East Bay high school baseball stars who went on to further fame as center fielders for the St. Louis Cardinals, will be inducted into the African-American/Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame at the Hyatt Regency in San Jose on Friday, Feb. 10. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:30. Flood, who died in 1997 at 49, challenged baseball's reserve clause in 1970. McGee, who also played for the A's Giants and Red Sox, has served as an assistant coach at Contra Costa College, and with a childhood friend started the Willie McGee Foundation, which provides scholarships and community outreach to a variety of athletic, educational and cultural programs. Other inductees will be NFL lineman Lincoln Kennedy, NFL Hall of Famer John Henry Johnson, tennis champion Don Johnson, track and field stars Gene Johnson and Irene Obera and San Jose State boxing and judo coaches Julius Menendez and Hoshihiro Uchida. Seven community service awards also will be presented. Among the recipients will be longtime basketball coach Ben Tappscott. For ticket or information, contact LaNiece Jones at 510-568-5899 or lajones@aol.com. Or visit afrosportshall.com. Seating is limited and early ticket purchase is suggested.

— Mike McGreehan

### Track club needs help

The C.A. Track Club, an Oakland-based nonprofit organization that offers athletes 10-18 a chance to compete in track and field, is looking for sponsors and participants. Members of the club will compete in the Shinko Games in Pocatello, Idaho, Feb. 16-18. Those wishing to sponsor, donate goods or services, or to join as athletes should call or e-mail club founder Jamal Cooks at 510-706-0344 or jamalcooks@aol.com.

— Mike McGreehan

### On deck

Boys basketball, St. Mary's vs. St. Joseph Notre Dame at Alameda High, Saturday, 7 p.m. — The Panthers will try to avenge their only BSAL loss this season. The Pilots defeated St. Mary's 61-54 on Jan. 3.

Girls soccer, El Cerrito at Berkeley, Thursday, 6 p.m. — In the scheduled regular-season finale, the Yellow Jackets may be aiming for an undefeated Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League season, and a victory over Berkeley could go a long way to help the Gauchos' postseason chances.

Boys basketball, St. Joseph Notre Dame at Piedmont, Tuesday, 7 p.m. — This is another key game for the Highlanders, who were in fourth place in the BSAL after beating Albany 60-53 on Tuesday. The Pilots won six of their first seven BSAL games, good for second place.

Girls soccer, Berkeley at Piedmont, Saturday, 1 p.m. — The Highlanders get a break from BSAL play, but this game is no break for them. The BSAL leaders take on the tough Yellow Jackets, who are in first place in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League.

Boys basketball, Alameda at Berkeley, Tuesday, 7 p.m. — The Hornets made history in the first meeting, beating the Yellow Jackets 72-68 for their first win over Berkeley since it rejoined the ACCAL in the 2000-2001 school year. Since that game both teams have gone 1-4 in league play.

### Stars of the week

Greg Brizendine, El Cerrito boys basketball — Brizendine had a rare "20-20" performance against Berkeley, as he scored a game-high 27 points and grabbed 25 rebounds in a 67-60 win.

Jasmine Perkins, Berkeley girls basketball — Perkins scored a game-high 21 points and also had four rebounds and three assists as the Yellow Jackets defeated El Cerrito 76-47.

Scottie Meinke, St. Mary's girls soccer — Meinke had eight saves in the Panthers' 0-0 tie with Dominican Christian.

## AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS



BRIAN ADAMS of the San Jose Dukes makes it to third base as Tom Aufman of the South County Jaspers falls trying to field the ball on Sunday. The teams were playing 1880s-style baseball, using vintage style gear from gloves to uniforms.

GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

# The gentleman's game

## Group takes baseball back to the '80s — 1880s, that is



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

UMPIRE JIM SAEGER takes note of the count during Sunday's games. The umpire's official in the 1880s was a long coat and a top hat, and players were required to address him as "sir."

By Chris Treadway

STAFF WRITER

It was 118 years ago that baseball pioneer Albert Spaulding brought his touring team out West for its first appearance in California, attracting more than 10,000 people to an exhibition in San Francisco.

A group of enthusiasts held a practice game Sunday at Codornices Park in Berkeley using the rules and attire that were in effect at the time of Spaulding's visit. Bay Area Vintage Base Ball (two words, the way it was back in the day) has three teams in the South Bay and is seeking enough players age 18 to 50 to field an East Bay squad.

As the group says on its Web site, "We play the game the way it was before \$50 million contracts, shoe sponsorships and 25-man rosters."

"I was watching ESPN Classic and they showed a baseball game being played by old-time rules and I said, 'I want to do that,'" said league president

"I was watching ESPN Classic and they showed a baseball game being played by old-time rules and I said, 'I want to do that.'"

Steve Gazay, president of Bay Area Vintage Base Ball

Steve Gazay.

But in checking around he learned that while there were more than 100 vintage base ball teams nationwide, none were west of Colorado.

That's when Bay Area Vintage Base Ball was born.

The group started last year with two teams, adding a third in June. This year plans are in the works to add at least one and

See BASE BALL, Page 2

## Sizzling Berkeley takes second place

By Robert Jordan

STAFF WRITER

It took almost two months, but the Berkeley High School girls basketball team has finally found its swagger.

After starting the season 6-7, the Yellow Jackets won their fifth straight game by beating visiting El Cerrito 76-47 on Tuesday.

### HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

The victory gave Berkeley sole possession of second place in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League at 6-1.

The loss was El Cerrito's second straight and dropped it to third with a 5-2 mark. Both teams trail Pinole Valley, which is 7-0.

"I don't know, it all clicked," said Berkeley guard Jasmine Perkins about her team's turnaround. "This isn't the same Berkeley team. It is just like



SUSAN TRIPP POLLARD/STAFF

ASHLEY ROLLINS of El Cerrito drives against Pinole Valley on Jan. 27. Pinole Valley won the ACCAL showdown 56-47.

See GIRLS, Page 2

### HIGH SCHOOL BOYS

## Panthers strike fast, surprise Chieftains

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER

The St. Mary's High School boys soccer team shocked Bay Shore Athletic League-leader Salesian with two goals in the first 13 minutes of their game on Wednesday, and the Panthers eventually defeated the Chieftains 3-1.

Miles Hadley opened the scoring for the visiting Panthers (11-6-1, 9-4-1 BSAL) when he took a through ball from Jordan Marvin and sent a shot into the right side of the net at the 10-minute mark. Teammate Luke Wallace scored three minutes later, and a goal by Rob Riccardi gave St. Mary's a 3-0 lead at the 24-minute mark.

"This carries some momentum for us. We tied and beat the top two teams in league," said St. Mary's coach Teale Matteson, whose squad tied Piedmont 0-0 on Monday. "It indicates we are peaking at the right time."

See BOYS, Page 2

## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Pinole Valley	16-0	Spartans score a season-high 85 points in win over Encinal
2.	Carondelet	15-2	Cougars continue defensive prowess, hold Liberty to nine field goals
3.	El Cerrito	16-1	Gauchos survive two overtime games
4.	Deer Valley	15-3	6-3 sophomore center Ashley Ellis returned against Carondelet
5.	Piedmont	15-4	Highlanders hand St. Patrick-St. Vincent first BSAL loss
6.	Washington	18-2	Huskies win seventh straight with 43-34 win over Livingston
7.	San Leandro	15-2	The Pirates hold off Hayward 55-54
8.	St. Mary's	11-8	Courtney Dunn cruising with a combined 35 points in games against Albany, Carondelet
9.	Miramonte	13-4	Katie Batlin scored 22 as Matadors won fifth straight game last week
10.	Berkeley	9-7	Yellow Jackets beat Westmoor-Daly City

Also receiving votes: Northgate (14-4), San Ramon Valley (13-5), St. Patrick-St. Vincent (16-3). The girls basketball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools. Records are through Jan. 25.

## Girls

FROM PAGE 1

'Here we come.'

Perkins has been a big part of Berkeley's success. The sophomore was one of 11 Yellow Jackets to score Tuesday. She finished with a game-high 21 points.

Perkins keyed a 19-2 run that bridged the first and second quarter to help Berkeley (11-7 overall) pull away from El Cerrito (16-3). Perkins had 10 points during the spurt.

"We had talent," said Berkeley point guard Aleah Bridges, who finished with five assists. "We just didn't know how to play together. Now we are coming out with our heads more in the game."

Berkeley's turnaround began when it beat Westmoor-Daly City 60-56 on Jan. 21. At the time, Westmoor was ranked No. 14 in Northern California by CalHS-ports.com.

During its winning streak Berkeley has outscored its opponents 439-187.

"I knew we were capable of this," said Berkeley coach Gene Nakamura, whose team held El Cerrito to 16 of 65 shooting from the field. "We just started to take steps forward, and today was a good example of that."

Nakamura also said that having himself call the defensive sets and assistant coach Herbert Miller call the offensive sets has made a difference.

El Cerrito was held to its second-lowest point total of the season.

"Berkeley is a good team," Gauchos coach Ron Williams said. "I don't care what their



ADRIAN CONNOLLY of Albany tries to pass the ball as Alexis Clore of St. Joseph defends. St. Joseph won 3-0.

record is. You have to come to play, especially at their home." Shonetta Crain-Williams had 16 points and Shameika Davis 11 for El Cerrito.

**Pinole Valley 56, El Cerrito 47:** Pinole Valley coach Dan O'Shea has preached all season that the Spartans have never been in this position.

Even after Pinole Valley finished 28-3 last season for the best mark in O'Shea's 20-year tenure. Now thanks in large part to

freshman center DeNesha Stallworth, people are going to have to take him seriously.

Stallworth scored 10 of her 12 points in the fourth quarter as the Spartans won Friday at Lovony Dejean Middle School in Richmond.

The Spartans took advantage of El Cerrito's troubles at the free-throw line to rally from a nine-point deficit in the second half.

El Cerrito shot 15-for-28 from the free-throw line, including 3-

## HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	De La Salle	15-1	Off to its best start since going 31-1 to win the state title in 1999
2.	Campolindo	15-3	Led by as many as 24 points in last week's dismantling of Las Lomas
3.	San Ramon Valley	14-4	With Monte Vista loss, Wolves remained the lone unbeaten EBAL team
4.	Foothill	17-2	Becomes first team to hold Monte Vista under 40 points in 47-38 loss
5.	Skyline	16-4	Titans remained comfortably in control of the OAL
6.	Salesian	15-4	Pushes win streak to 11 games with wins over St. Elizabeth, John
7.	Deer Valley	14-4	Got its first crack at De La Salle in BVAL action last Friday
8.	Tennyson	14-2	Remained the HAAL leader despite hiccup against Castro Valley
9.	Las Lomas	15-3	Knights overwhelmed in DFAL showdown loss to Campolindo
10.	San Leandro	13-4	Drops eight spots after back-to-back losses to Bishop O'Dowd, H

Also receiving votes: Pinole Valley (12-4), St. Joseph Notre Dame (15-5). The boys basketball poll includes all East Bay high schools. Records are through Jan. 25.

for-8 in the fourth quarter.

"Pinole Valley is a good team," said Williams, whose team had not lost since a 40-39 defeat to Lynwood on Dec. 8. "We knew they were going to make a run. We tried to make a run at the end, and we just weren't able to do it."

Junior Jaleesa Ross and Stallworth keyed Pinole Valley's second-half comeback. Ross finished with 18 points, including 12 in the second half. Jasmine Smith kept the Spartans close in the first half with eight of her 18 points.

Myleka Emerson had 18 points to pace El Cerrito. Crain-Williams added 11 points and Kiara Lewis had eight.

**Albany 58, Holy Names 45:** The visiting Cougars held a 24-13 halftime lead on the way to their victory Friday. Tori Nicks led three Albany players in double figures with 16 points. Teammates Annie Chin and Joan Cannon added 14 and 12 points respectively.

## SOCCER

**Berkeley 1, Encinal 0:** The visiting Yellow Jackets remained undefeated in ACCAL play with the win on Tuesday. Haley Geller scored the game-winning goal in the third minute of play, as Berkeley improved to 12-3-3 overall and 10-0-1 in ACCAL action.

**Berkeley 3, Pinole Valley 0:** Kristina Hall scored two goals in the first 20 minutes of the game for visiting Berkeley on Jan. 26.

**Alameda 2, El Cerrito 1:** The visiting Hornets shut out the Gauchos (8-3-3, 6-2-2 ACCAL) until the final minutes of Tuesday's game, when Gaby Baker scored.

**Concord 1, El Cerrito 1:** The visiting Gauchos' Alba Basurto

forced a tie on Saturday with a goal at the 74-minute mark. Jenya Jawad had 11 saves for the Gauchos.

**El Cerrito 10, De Anza 0:** Linda Saephang had a hat trick in the host Gauchos' overwhelming victory over the Dons on Jan. 26.

**St. Mary's 4, Salesian 2:** The host Panthers (13-2-3, 10-2-3 BSAL) scored all their goals in the first half to defeat the Chiefs (7-7-1 BSAL) on Wednesday. Sophia Darke opened the scoring at the two-minute mark for St. Mary's. She also had the final goal of the game at the 33-minute mark.

**St. Mary's 5, John Swett 1:** Paige Freiburger scored two goals as the visiting Panthers defeated the Indians on Friday.

**Berean Christian 1, St. Mary's 1:** Kim Clincy scored the visiting Panthers' goal at the three-minute mark, then the St. Mary's defense held firm on Jan. 25. Scottie Meinke had eight saves for the Panthers against the Eagles, who fell to 9-0-4 in BSAL play with the tie.

**St. Joseph Notre Dame 3, Albany 0:** The host Cougars fell behind 3-0 in the first half on Wednesday. Shireen Javandel had seven saves for the Cougars (5-8-2 BSAL).

**Piedmont 3, Albany 1:** Megan Moss scored the first goal of the game for host Albany at the 26-minute mark, but the Highlanders broke a 1-1 halftime tie with two goals on Friday.

**Albany 6, Holy Names 0:** Alysha Lyster had a hat trick as the visiting Cougars easily defeated the Monarchs on Jan. 25.

Staff writer Phil Jensen contributed to this roundup.

## Baseball

FROM PAGE 1

possibly more teams. Baseball in 1888 was more than the game we know today. Bats were thick and heavy, were small and other gear was non-existent. Days it was three strikes out, but seven balls for a hit and a hit batsman was a

There was no fear of tainting the game, but with accepted common sense in the 1880s, the umpire allowed to smoke a cigar, play, and is allowed to create a version as well.

In the vintage baseball each team is outfitted with uniforms from the equipment consisting of production balls, gloves, bases. The umpire's uniform is a long coat and players are required to dress him as "sir." Cursing and betting are prohibited.

For more information on the "gentleman's game" of baseball in the 1880s, visit our website at [www.bavbb.com](http://www.bavbb.com).

Reach Chris Treadway at [ctreadway@ccimes.com](mailto:ctreadway@ccimes.com) or 510-262-2784.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

To submit an item to the What's Happening calendar, e-mail [sports@cc-times.com](mailto:sports@cc-times.com) to request a form. Put "What's Happening" in the subject line. Nonprofit organizations only. You may be asked to submit a copy of your 1099 or 501(c)(3) to verify nonprofit status. Entries are edited for content and are published as space is available.

## BASKETBALL

**East Bay Xplosion** — Tryouts for spring teams, ages 10U-17U, Feb. 11 and 25 at a location and time to be determined. For more information call, 209-380-5440. Visit [www.league-lineup.com/ebx](http://www.league-lineup.com/ebx).

**BYA Basketball Leagues** — Sign-ups for Pee Wee Basketball, boys and girls ages 6-9, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.; and All Net Basketball, boys and girls ages 9-11, Feb. 23, 4:30 p.m., 1255 Alston Way, Berkeley. \$20-\$25. Reservations: 510-845-9066 or e-mail, [sports@byaonline.org](mailto:sports@byaonline.org).

## FUND-RAISER

**Cougars Classic** — Feb. 10, noon shotgun start, Tilden Park Golf Course, Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Shasta Road, Berkeley. Proceeds benefit Albany High School golf team. \$35 (high school players), \$75 (adults). Fred Brown, 510-604-2282 or e-mail, [mackkraus@speakeasy.net](mailto:mackkraus@speakeasy.net).

## GENERAL

**Diablo Valley College Athletic Hall of Fame** — Diablo Valley College is trying to locate former Vikings athletes from its 1970 state championship wrestling team, 1973 state champion men's swim team and 1978 state champion women's swim team for its first Hall of Fame banquet on Feb. 9 at the Crowne Plaza of Concord. Athletes from those teams should contact DVC athletic director Steve Ward at 925-685-1230, ext. 2742.

## LACROSSE

**Skyline Lacrosse** — Online registration for boys, grades 2-4 and 7-8; and girls, grades 2-8, at [www.skylinelacrosse.com](http://www.skylinelacrosse.com), 510-595-8038.

## SOCCER

**Albany/Berkeley Soccer Club** — Registration for boys and girls, ages 5-18, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., W. Berkeley Senior Center, 1900 6th St., Feb. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and Feb. 13 and 16, 6-9:30 p.m., Cornell School, 901 Cornell Ave., Albany. For online registration, visit: [www.sportability.com](http://www.sportability.com), 510-528-4468

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or e-mail, [abs2register@yahoo.com](mailto:abs2register@yahoo.com).

## SOFTBALL

**Oakland Girls Softball** — Online registration ongoing for spring season, ages 7-14, at [www.ogsf.org](http://www.ogsf.org). Season begins in March. 510-339-7268.

## JOHN

**Mid-County Officials Network** — Seeking umpires for dirt pitch softball and baseball for upcoming season. Leagues based in Contra Costa, Alameda and Solano counties. Training begins for several experience levels in late January. \$40-\$65 per game. 510-301-2928.

**Richmond High School** — Seeking varsity baseball coach. For information, please contact Roy Rogers (510-237-8770, ext. 2329) or Randy Enos (510-237-8770, ext. 2309).

**St. Mary's College High School** — Accepting applications for following positions: head and assistant varsity softball coach. Denis Mohun, 510-559-6218.

**Pinole Valley High School** — Seeking assistant varsity baseball coaches. Ben Juarez, 925-354-0188.

**Wilson Prep** — Seeking varsity and junior varsity football assistant coaches; and head junior varsity football coach for Oakland school. Osibisa, 415-652-7726, or e-mail, [osibisa.roseby@aspirepublicschools.org](mailto:osibisa.roseby@aspirepublicschools.org)

## Boys

FROM PAGE 1

David Maguire had six saves for St. Mary's, which held fourth place in the BSAL. The Panthers have not lost a league game since Jan. 6 and have a 7-0-1 league record during that span.

**Salesian (12-2-1 BSAL)** fell to second place in the league with the loss Wednesday. Piedmont (12-1-2) is in first place.

**St. Mary's 0, Piedmont 0:** Maguire grabbed four saves for the visiting Panthers, who received a precious point against the Highlanders on Monday.

**St. Mary's 3, John Swett 1:** The Panthers took a 3-0 lead in this home win on Friday. Marvin, Riccardi and Hadley scored for St. Mary's.

**St. Mary's 3, Berean Christian 0:** Hadley had a goal and an assist for the host Panthers on Jan. 25.

**Piedmont 3, Albany 1:** Wadud Jandali had 16 saves, but the visiting Cougars were unable to defeat the Highlanders on Friday.

**Albany 9, St. Elizabeth 0:** Luis Fonseca and Christopher Lewis each had two goals for the host Cougars against the Mustangs on

Jan. 25.

**Alameda 2, El Cerrito 0:** The visiting Gauchos (1-11-3, 1-9-1 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League at press time) received six saves from Ruben Munguia, but El Cerrito couldn't hold off the Hornets on Tuesday.

**De Anza 6, El Cerrito 0:** Munguia had four saves, but the host Dons took a 2-0 halftime lead and didn't give up the advantage on Jan. 26.

**Encinal 2, Berkeley 0:** Evelio Perez grabbed six saves for the host Yellow Jackets (13-6-1, 7-4 ACCAL at press time) on Tuesday, but Berkeley couldn't defeat the red-hot Jets, who are undefeated in league play since Jan. 5.

**Berkeley 2, Pinole Valley 0:** The Yellow Jackets' Erik Strauss had a goal and an assist in this home win on Jan. 26.

## BASKETBALL

**El Cerrito 67, Berkeley 60:** The Gauchos' Greg Brizendine had a rare "20-20" Tuesday against the visiting Yellow Jackets. Brizendine scored a game-high 27 points and grabbed 25 rebounds in the win for El Cerrito (5-2 ACCAL). Berkeley (2-5 ACCAL) was paced in scoring by Brian Guinn with 15 points.

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See MOVIES, Page C5

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...of the U.S. government. Brooks, so good in "Broadcast News" and "Defending Your Life," serves up clunky jokes and feeble commentary. After a promising start, it turns painfully unfunny. — R. Myers. (PG-13: drug content, brief strong language.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. D+

**"THE MATADOR":** Pierce Brosnan plays against type as Julian, an international assassin facing a serious career meltdown, who strikes up an unlikely friendship with struggling, straight-arrow businessman Danny (Greg Kinnear). The two meet over margaritas in a hotel bar in Mexico City, then go their separate ways soon after. But something has happened between them that we won't know until six months later, when Julian shows up at Danny's door. It seems the hit man has one more job to do before he can retire and he wants — demands — Danny's help. — J. Mathews. (R: strong sexual content and language.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. B

**"MATCH POINT":** Woody Allen takes on a new game and, for the most part, scores. The movie, set in England instead of New York, pays

See MOVIES, Page C5

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## NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

SOUNDS OF NEW ENGLAND by Rich Norris / Edited by Will Shortz

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14 Eighty-six

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20 Sommelier's prefix

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23 Site for stretchers

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39 Cosa —

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42 "The Wizard —"

43 Cabinet dept.

44 Poker chip, e.g.

46 1989 Peace Prize recipient

49 "Say what?"

51 "The fix —"

52 One may replace an oath

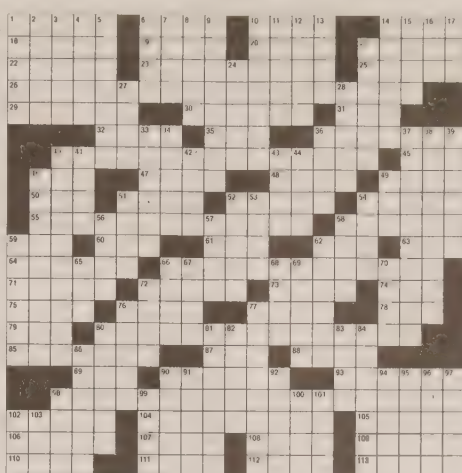
53 Fabled flurs

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56 "Concord Sonata" composer

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103 Damp and chilly

## Events

## TOURS

**BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL** — Ongoing. The Bay Area Ridge Trail, when completed, will be a 400-mile regional trail system that will form a loop around the entire San Francisco Bay region, linking 75 public parks and open spaces to thousands of people and hundreds of communities. Hikes on portions of the trail are available through the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Call for meeting sites.

## ONGOING EVENTS —

**ALAMEDA COUNTY** — "Lake Chabot Bike Rides." These rides are for strong beginners and intermediates to build skill, strength and endurance at a non-hermaphrodite pace. No one will be dropped. Reservations required. Distances: 14 miles. Elevation gain: 1,000 feet. Difficulty: beginner to intermediate. Pace: moderate. Meeting place: Lake Chabot Road at the main entrance to the park. Thursday, 6:15 a.m. (510) 468-3582.

**ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA COUNTY** — "Tilden and Wildcat Bike Rides." A vigorous ride through Tilden and Wildcat Canyon regional parks. Reservations required. Distance: 15 miles. Elevation gain: 2,000 feet. Difficulty: intermediate. Pace: fast. Meeting place: in front of the North Berkeley BART Station. Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. (510) 849-9650.

**Free.** (415) 561-2595 or [www.rid-getrail.org](http://www.rid-getrail.org).

**BERKELEY CITY CLUB TOURS** — Ongoing. Guided tours through Berkeley's City Club, a landmark building designed by architect Julia Morgan, designer of Hearst Castle.

\$2 per person. The fourth Sunday of every month, noon and 4 p.m. 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. (510) 848-7800 or [www.berkeleycityclub.com](http://www.berkeleycityclub.com).

**BLACK PANTHER LEGACY TOUR** — Ongoing. A bus tour of 18 sites significant in the history of the Black Panther Party, conducted by the Huey P. Newton Foundation. By reservation only.

\$25 general; \$15 students. West Oakland Branch Library, 1801 Adeline St., Oakland. (510) 986-0680 or [www.blackpanthertour.com](http://www.blackpanthertour.com).

## CALDECOTT TUNNEL TOUR —

Ongoing. Take a walking tour through the giant ventilation ducts that run above the bores of the Caldecott Tunnel and learn the intricacies of running a tunnel system. See the jet-engine size fans pump fresh air into the tunnels at more than 50 miles per hour and visit the Control Station where crewmembers monitor the tunnels. The two-hour tour includes a movie on how the tunnels were built and an opportunity to watch the lane switch. Tours are for six or more people. If children are taking the tour, the requirement is one adult for eight children. Reservations required. Ask for Ray Mailhot to make a reservation. Call before 7 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Free. Wednesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. Caldecott Tunnel, State Highway 24, Oakland. (510) 286-0315.

**CAMRON-STANFORD HOUSE** — Ongoing. The Camron-Stanford House, an 1876 Italianate-style home that was at one time the Oakland Public Museum, has been restored and furnished with appropriate period furnishings by the Camron-Stanford House Preservation Association. It is the last Victorian house on Lake Merritt's shore. Call ahead to confirm tours and hours.

\$5 general; \$4 seniors; \$3 youths age 12 to 18; free children ages 11 and under when accompanied by a paying adult; free the first Sunday of the month. Second and third Wednesdays of the month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; third Sunday of the month, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 1418 Lakeside Drive at 14th Street, Oakland. (510) 444-1876 or [www.cshouse.org](http://www.cshouse.org).

**CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER** — A state-of-the-art facility unifying all science education activities around astronomy. Enjoy interactive exhibits, hands-on activities, indoor stargazing, outdoor telescope viewing and films. General admission includes exhibits, a single planetarium show, and parking. Additional planetarium show: \$5 general; \$4 children.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** — Ongoing. Free with museum admission unless otherwise noted.

Earth and Environmental Science Programs, Jan. 7 through March 25. Chabot staff, interns and volunteers help visitors explore the mysteries and science of planet Earth. There will be a different theme each second and fourth Saturday: learn about the

Earth's atmosphere, solar energy, worm composting, the redwood forest and how NASA uses satellites to study the Earth from space. Activities include: building a solar car, hiking, fun with worms and slide shows. Jan. 7, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, Feb. 25, March 11 and March 25. Free with general admission.

**"Lunar Lounge Express Nights,"** Jan. 27 through March 24. Come in costume and party under the stars at Chabot. View the Red Planet as it makes its second-closest approach in 60,000 years, and enjoy food, drinks, live performances, movie shorts, a planetarium show, telescope viewing, hands-on exhibits and giveaways. Call for tickets. Jan. 27, Feb. 24 and March 24, 8 p.m. to midnight. \$20 general; \$15 students. (510) 336-7373.

**"Valentine's Day Love Mission,"** Feb. 11 and Feb. 12. Celebrate the day on a Mission to Mars. Take a simulated space mission to the Red Planet. Includes chocolates, a fizzy Martian beverage, and a souvenir of the trip to outer space. Reservations suggested. Saturday, 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Price covers Center's general admission. \$60 per couple.

**TELESCOPE MAKERS' WORKSHOP** — Ongoing. This workshop is run by a volunteer group committed to helping people build their own telescopes. No experience is necessary. Open to all ages. Attendees work at their own pace and weekly attendance is not necessary. Weekly, Friday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Information: (925) 447-6837, (510) 339-9224.

**TELESCOPE VIEWING** — Ongoing. Weather permitting, explore the night sky through the 8-inch and 20-inch refractor telescopes, Leah and Rachel, and now additionally through the 36-inch reflector telescope, Nellie. November through March: Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. April through October: Friday and Saturday, dusk to 10:30 p.m. Free with museum admission.

**TEN MEGADOME SCIENCE THEATER** — Ongoing. A 70-foot dome screen auditorium. Show times subject to change. Call for current show schedule. Price with paid general admission is \$7 general; \$6 seniors, students and children ages 4 to 12. Theater only: \$8 general; \$7 seniors, students and children ages 4 to 12. (510) 336-7373 or [www.ticketsweb.com](http://www.ticketsweb.com).

**"The Human Body,"** Ongoing. This show explores the daily biological processes that go on in the human

body without our control and often without our notice. This amazing story is revealed in detail on the giant screen.

**"SolarMax,"** Ongoing. This show features live images of the sun and footage from around the world of solar observatories of the past, present and future. "SolarMax" tells of humankind's struggle to understand the sun. Travel around the world to visit historical sites of sun worship. See scientists studying the sun and view the majesty of a total solar eclipse.

**"Cosmic Voyage,"** Ongoing. A breathtaking journey through time and space. Zoom from the surface of the Earth to the largest observable structures of the Universe and back down to the sub-nuclear realm, a guided tour across some 42 orders of magnitude. Explore some of the greatest scientific theories, many of which have never before been visualized on film.

**"Forces of Nature,"** Ongoing. This film showcases the awesome spectacle of earthquakes, volcanoes, and severe storms as scientists continue their quests to understand how these natural disasters are triggered.

**DISCOVERY CLUB** — Feb. 8 and Feb. 15, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. "Simple Machines, Inventors and Inventions." Experience simple machines and help design and invent ones. Feb. 8: children, age 3 1/2 to 5. Feb. 15: children age 5 1/2 to 8.

Center Admission: \$13 general; \$10 seniors and students; \$9 youngsters age 3 to 12; free children under 3; Movies and evening planetarium shows: \$7 to \$8 general, \$6 to \$7 seniors, students and youngsters age 3 through 12. Telescope viewing only: free. Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 336-7300 or [www.chabot-space.org](http://www.chabot-space.org).

**CLOSE TO HOME: EXPLORING NATURE'S TREASURES IN THE EAST BAY** — Ongoing. A yearlong program of monthly talks and Saturday outings about the natural history of the East Bay. In this hands-on program learn about the plants, wildlife and watershed of the East Bay's incredibly rich and dynamic bioregion. The 12 Saturday outings will take place in either Alameda or Contra Costa counties. The 10 talks at the Montclair Presbyterian Church will be on the Monday prior to the Saturday outing. A note-

See EVENTS, Page C5

## Movies

FROM PAGE C3

homage to film noir with its dark themes. Jonathan Rhys Meyers stars as a tennis pro smitten with his new, upper-crust friend's fiancée (Scarlett Johansson). The film-school symbolism and tennis metaphors can be a bit much, but that can almost be ignored in a movie filled with suppress and snappy exchanges. — R. Myers. (R: some sexuality.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. B

**"MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA":** This beautiful epic based on the best-selling 1997 novel plays up the soap-opera elements as it chronicles the life of a pre-WWII geisha. Ziyi Zhang ("House of Flying Daggers") plays Sayuri, a geisha of great acclaim who finds herself terribly infatuated with an older man (Ken Watanabe) who seems barely aware of her existence. As directed by Rob Marshall ("Chicago"), "Geisha" caresses our senses with its breathtaking imagery and lush photography, but what ultimately results is a slightly shallow version that emphasizes the melodrama. — R. Myers. (PG-13: mature subject matter and some sexual content.) 2 hours, 24 minutes. B

**"MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS":** This mildly naughty and fitfully entertaining comedy/drama finds Judi Dench playing a familiar role, that of an upstart widow who likes to engage in a battle of wits with anyone she encounters. Dench is indeed delightful as Laura Henderson, proprietor of a vaudeville theater where the actresses go nude to buoy business, and Bob Hoskins as the theater manager she hires. But the tone shifts, slapping away the comedy in favor of drama and the resulting fusion doesn't gel. — R. Myers. (R: nudity and brief language.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. C+

**"MUNICH":** Director Steven Spielberg creates another masterpiece in this harrowing, fictionalized account of the fallout involved when political retribution enters the global landscape. Eric Bana ("Troy") portrays the head of a secret Israeli team out to pick off the masterminds behind the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre. This powerful thriller, the year's best, asks us to consider the effectiveness — and human toll — of political vendettas. — R. Myers. (R: strong graphic violence, some sexual content, nudity and language.) 2 hours, 44 minutes. A

**"NANNY & MCPHEE":** Emma Thompson wrote and stars in this family film. Done up with hairy warts and a snaggletooth, she's the latest nanny for seven unruly children living in the English countryside. The A-list cast (Colin Firth, Angela Lansbury) has a great time, and "McPhee" is nearly always pleasant, if less than spectacular. — R. Myers. (PG: mild thematic elements, some rude humor and brief language.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. B-

**"THE NEW WORLD":** The latest film by iconoclastic filmmaker Terrence Malick ("The Thin Red Line") is achingly beautiful, but slowly paced, with more voice-over narration than dialogue. Colin Farrell is John Smith and Q'orianka Kilcher is Pocahontas in this tale of the interaction between settlers and Native Americans in 1607 Virginia. — R. Myers. (PG-13: some intense battle sequences.) 2 hours, 15 minutes. B+

**"PRIDE & PREJUDICE":** This version brings robust energy and spunk to the Jane Austen classic about romance and class complications. Keira Knightley makes a fine heroine, with pluck and a thing for that brooding snob Mr. Darcy (Matthew Macfadyen). The two take a while to get the sparks flying, but once they do, they turn this beloved story into a romantic comedy that holds up, even compared with earlier versions. — R. Myers. (PG: some mild thematic elements.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. A-

**"THE PRODUCERS":** Although it's little more than a filmed version of the Broadway hit, this off-color musical about a producer (Nathan Lane) and an accountant (Matthew Broderick) who try to turn a profit by creating theater's hugest flop is still good fun. The best parts of funnyman Mel Brooks' ribald, loving sendup of

Broadway occur when "Springtime for Hitler" is tasteless. Will Ferrell's show's Hitler-loving play the rest of the supporting light. — R. Myers. (R: humor and references.) 2 minutes. B

**"RENT":** The rock opera of a young generation struggling its transition to the social. Chris Columbus prefers grit, stripping the Pulitzer of one of the reasons it is lauded. Still, the cast, including "Rent" stage veterans, and the music and story done Columbus seems unapologetically annoyingly sending his tale into the future, on these eight young adults, giving to make sense out of death in 1979 New York. Myers. (PG-13: mature subject matter and some strong language.) 2 minutes. B-

**"ROVING MARS":** The first of this large-format film is a tale of the future of a huge astronaut must finish before he can head for Mars — a tale that one astronaut likens to a basketball from Los Angeles. New York and having it go without touching the rim. Even better when the crew begins gathering information. Hewitt. (G) 40 minutes. B

**"RUMOR HAS IT ...":** Jeni ton gets star billing, but MacLaine shoves everyone her boozey and bitter act and meaner Mrs. Robinson valiantly tries to make her appealing as she searches for her, whom she suspects is "Graduate." Mark Ruffalo's other likable guy performs funny moments. — R. Myers. Mature thematic material, tent, crude humor and a dance.) B-

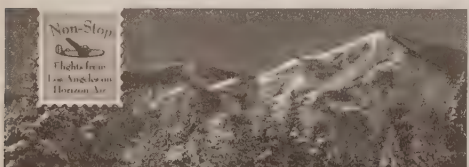
**"THE SQUID AND THE WHALE":** Jeff Daniels stars in this bar divorce and family breakup. plays Bernard, a writing prod and novelist whose talent is up, and who grows into over his wife's (Laura Linney) fortunes as a writer. All this has left to offer her kids. The decision to split up custody quickly follows. — R. Myers. (R: strong sexual content, graphic dialogue, language.) 28 minutes. B+

**"TRISTAN & ISOLDE":** In Franco plays Tristan, a Welsh Prince who is possessed to a funeral boat to the island. Isolate, the daughter, king, finds and cures him, love, he returns home, and Isolate is offered as the prize. The political intrigue is tricky to follow, but the sword fights and love scenes. Alas, though, the pair just in this film that Romeo-and-Juliet break it so desperately near Moore. (PG-13: Intense but sequences, some sexuality.) minutes. B

**"SYRIANA":** This relevant, episodic political thriller tells multiple narratives to promote peer into the world's political dictation. Director/writer Steven Soderbergh uses a flash-cut style similar to what he did for "Traffic." But in his director, he has fashioned a pelling and urgent film that trades. "Syriana" is just too good thing, overly cluttered by actors to the point of confusion. George Clooney, Matt Damon, Jeffrey Wright head an A-list given lines worthy of Shakespeare. R. Myers. (R: violence and 2 hours, 6 minutes. B

## "TRANSMERICA":

In the comedy, Felicity Huffman plays a pre-op male-to-female who she is eagerly looking for a surgery when she gets a Toby (Kevin Zegers), a 17-year-old Manhattan street hustler who landed in jail and is trying to find out who he has never had a brief affair with his mother. — K. Thomas. (R: sexual content.) 1 hour, 43 minutes.



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# Events

Page C4

of relevant readings and re-  
sponses for each outing is available to  
participants for an additional \$30  
per person. The program is cospon-  
sored by the Oakland Museum of  
California, BayNature Magazine, and  
the Oakland Magazine. Fee for the year-  
long outings, talks, site fees, ori-  
entation, and a party.

**WILLY TOURS** — Ongoing.  
Wildcat Creek Walk, Feb. 11. This  
walk will begin at the creek's head-  
waters in the hills and walk, with a  
hand stops along the way, to the  
mouth in Fremont. The group  
will meet in a private bus to the  
waters and be picked up at the  
head of the creek after the walk.

**Evening Talks** — Ongoing.  
Prior to each Saturday field  
trip there is a Monday night talk at  
the Montclair Presbyterian Church in  
Berkeley. \$5 per person if not en-  
rolled in the "Close to Home" year-  
long program.

**per person for yearlong partici-**  
pation. \$30 additional for binder with  
materials. Montclair Presbyterian  
Church, 5701 Thornhill Drive,  
Berkeley. (510) 855-8658, (510) 801-  
1000 or www.close-to-home.org.

**WILSON HOUSE AND GAR-**  
den HISTORIC ESTATE — Ongo-  
ing. THE HOUSE IS CLOSED FOR  
WINTER — Nestled in the Oak-  
land hills, the 50-acre Dunsmuir  
House and Gardens estate includes  
a Victorian Neoclassical Revival  
Mansion, built by coal and  
baron Alexander Dunsmuir for  
himself. Restored outbuildings set  
in landscaped gardens surround  
the mansion.

**WILSON GROUNDS** — ongoing. Self-  
guided Grounds Tours are available  
around. The 50 acres of gardens  
surrounding the mansion are open  
for walking Tuesday  
through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Maps and maps of the grounds  
are available at the Dinkelspiel  
House. Free.

**Dunsmuir House and Gardens, 2960**  
Oaks Court, Oakland. (510)  
855-8658 or www.dunsmuir.org.

**WILSON FARMERS MARKETS** —  
Ongoing. A chance to  
enjoy local organic produce, baked  
goods and flowers.

**Alameda County** —  
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October. Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2  
p.m. Broadway and Embarcadero.  
(800) 949-FARM or www.jacklondon-  
square.com.

**Jack London Square:** Sunday, 10  
a.m. to 2 p.m. Broadway and Embar-  
cadero. (800) 949-FARM or www.jack-  
london-square.com.

**Twilight Tuesdays Market:** August  
through October. Tuesday, 4 p.m. to 8  
p.m. Jack London Square, foot of  
Broadway. (800) 949-FARM or  
www.jacklondon-square.com.

**Kaiser Certified Farmers Market:** May  
through November: Friday, 10 a.m. to  
2 p.m. Howe Street between  
MacArthur Boulevard and 40th Street.  
(800) 949-FARM.

**Mandela Market:** Saturday, 10 a.m. to  
4 p.m. Fifth Street and Mandela Park-  
way. (510) 776-4178.

**Millsmont Market:** May through Octo-  
ber. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
MacArthur Boulevard and Seminary  
Avenue. (510) 238-9306.

**Montclair Certified Farmers Market:**  
Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. La Salle Av-  
enue between Mountain Boulevard  
and Moraga Avenue. (510) 745-7100.

**Old Oakland Market:** Friday, 8 a.m. to  
2 p.m. Ninth Street and Broadway.  
(510) 745-7100. Oakland.

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY** —  
**RICHMOND CERTIFIED FARMERS**  
**MARKET** — Ongoing. Friday, 11 a.m.  
to 5 p.m. A chance to buy fresh fruits  
and vegetables, cut flowers, baked  
goods and more. Civic Center Plaza  
Drive and McDonald Avenue, Rich-  
mond. (510) 758-2366.

**EL CERRITO CERTIFIED FARMERS**  
**MARKET** — Ongoing. Tuesday and  
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A chance  
to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, cut  
flowers, baked goods and more. El  
Cerrito Plaza, San Pablo and Fair-  
mont Avenues, El Cerrito. (925) 279-  
1760.

**Free.** www.cafarmersmarkets.com.

**GOLDEN GATE LIVE STEAMERS** —  
Ongoing. Small locomotives, meticu-  
lously scaled to size, run along a half  
mile of track in Tilden Regional Park.  
The small trains are owned and main-  
tained by a non-profit group of rail-  
road buffs that offer rides. Come out  
for the monthly family run and bar-  
beque at the track, offered on the  
fourth Sunday of the month.

**Free.** Trains run Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4  
p.m.; Rides: Sunday, noon to 3 p.m.,  
weather permitting. Grizzly Peak  
Boulevard and Lomas Cantadas Drive  
at the south end of Tilden Regional  
Park, Berkeley. (510) 486-0623 or  
www.ggls.org.

**GONDOLA SERVICIO** — Ongoing.  
Weather permitting. Take a ride  
around Lake Merritt in a real Venetian  
gondola rowed by a Venetian-style  
gondolier. The boats of Gondola  
Servizio were built by hand in Venice  
and can be reserved either open or  
with an enclosed cabin. Each gondo-  
la seats up to six people and reser-  
vations are required.

**Marco Polo:** Bring a picnic lunch  
and/or a beverage to enjoy on this  
25-minute cruise. \$45 per couple, \$10  
for each additional person.

**Casanova:** A 55-minute cruise. Bring  
a picnic and/or champagne or an-

other beverage to enjoy. Glasses are  
supplied along with blankets. \$75 per  
couple, \$10 for each additional per-  
son.

**Felze:** This romantic excursion in an  
18th-century, covered-cabin gondola  
allows a ride in the fashion of the  
Venetian Nobility. The cabin is deco-  
rated with rich tapestries, appliques  
and etched glass windows. Must be  
reserved two days in advance. Be  
sure to bring champagne for this ro-  
mantic ride. \$100 per hour.

**Promessi Sposi:** This is a package  
that includes two rowers in 17th-cen-  
tury attire, decorations and free pas-  
sage for a photographer for that spe-  
cial occasion. \$225 per hour.

**Voga Veneta California, Ongoing.** A  
Venetian rowing social club. Venetian  
rowing is one of the oldest rowing  
styles in Europe. Learn to row this  
unique style using not only Gondola  
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Venetian boats that have been im-  
ported for club use. In addition to  
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songs. Membership required. \$300  
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**Open June through October.** Lake  
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737-6494 or  
www.gondolaservizio.com.

**GREENBELT ALLIANCE OUTINGS** —  
A series of hikes, bike rides and  
events sponsored by Greenbelt Al-  
liance, the Bay Area's non-profit land  
conservation and urban planning or-  
ganization. Call for meeting places.  
Reservations required for all trips.

**ALAMEDA COUNTY** —  
"Self-Guided Urban Outing: Berke-  
ley." Ongoing. This interactive smart  
growth walking tour of central Berke-  
ley examines some of the exciting  
projects that help alleviate the hous-  
ing shortage in the city as well as  
amenities important to making a liv-  
able community. The walk, which in-  
cludes the GAIA Cultural Center, Al-  
ston Oak Court, The Berkeley Bike  
Station, University Terrace and Straw-  
berry Creek Park, takes between an  
hour and a half to two hours at a  
leisurely pace. Download the itinerary  
which gives specific directions by en-  
tering www.greenbelt.org and click-  
ing on "get involved" and then "urban  
outings." Drop down and click on  
Berkeley. Free.

**Suno's Little Yosemite, Feb. 12, 11**  
a.m. to 4 p.m. This hike goes to "Little  
Yosemite," a beautiful gorge with low  
waterfalls and towering rock forma-  
tions. Distance: 6 miles. Difficulty:  
moderate. Elevations change: less  
than 1,000 feet.

**Berkeley Rocks and Waterfalls, Feb.**  
19, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This walk  
through the Berkeley hills uncovers  
little known, hidden three stepped  
waterfalls, rock parks with ancient vol-  
canic formations, and historic homes  
and gardens. Distance: 8 miles. Diffi-  
culty: moderate to challenging. Eleva-  
tion change: less than 1,000 feet.

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY** —  
Diablo's Hidden Falls, Feb. 11, 10  
a.m. to 5 p.m. On this hike for experi-  
enced hikers to Eagle Peak and Dia-  
blo's Falls enjoy spectacular views,

green canyons, and several the 20  
and 30 foot high waterfalls that feed  
Donner Creek. Distance: 9 miles. Dif-  
ficulty: strenuous. Elevation gain:  
2,000 to 3,000 feet.

**Free unless otherwise noted.** (415)  
255-3233 or www.greenbelt.org.

**LAKE MERRITT BOAT RIDES** —  
Ongoing. "Gondola Servizio."  
Weather permitting. Take a ride  
around Lake Merritt in a real Venetian  
gondola rowed by a Venetian-style  
gondolier. The boats of Gondola  
Servizio were built by hand in Venice  
and can be reserved either open or  
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**Marco Polo:** Bring a picnic lunch  
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**Promessi Sposi:** This is a package  
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**Open June through October.** Lake  
Merritt Sailboat House, 568 Bellevue  
Ave., Oakland. (510) 663-6603 or  
www.gondolaservizio.com.

**LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL**  
**LABORATORY** — Ongoing. Scien-  
tists and engineers guide visitors  
through the research areas of the lab-  
oratory, demonstrating emerging  
technology and discussing the re-  
search's current and potential appli-  
cations. A Berkeley lab tour usually  
lasts one to two hours and includes  
visits to several research areas. Popu-  
lar tour sites include the Advanced  
Light Source, The National Center for  
Electron Microscopy, the 88-Inch Cy-  
clotron, The Advanced Lighting Labo-  
ratory and The Human Genome Labo-  
ratory. Reservations required at least  
two weeks in advance of tour. Wear  
comfortable walking shoes. Photogra-  
phy is permitted. Due to heightened  
security after Sept. 11, 2001, tour  
participants will be asked for photo  
identification and citizenship information.

**Free.** Times given with reservations.  
University of California, 1 Cyclotron  
Road, Berkeley. (510) 486-7292 or  
www.lbl.gov.

**MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY**  
**WALKING TOURS** — Ongoing. Take  
a three-hour, docent-led walking tour  
of this cemetery, designed by  
renowned architect Friedrich Law

Olmsted, where many historical fig-  
ures, both local and national, are  
buried.

**Free.** Second Saturday of the month,  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 5000 Piedmont  
Ave., Oakland. (510) 658-2588 or  
www.oaklandhistory.com.

**NIMITZ WALK** — Ongoing. A level,  
paved walk originally constructed  
when the army was considering  
putting a missile site in the hills  
above Berkeley. Near Inspiration  
Point; from San Pablo Dam Road turn  
left onto Wildcat Canyon Road in  
Orinda. The entrance to the walk, and  
a parking lot, is at the top of the  
ridge. This is an easy hike for people  
of all ages and especially ideal for the  
very old, the very young, and the dis-  
abled. Bicycles and roller blades are  
allowed.

**Free.** Daily, sunrise to sunset. Tilden  
Park, near Inspiration Point, Berkeley  
Hills. (510) 525-2233 or  
www.ebparks.org.

**OAKLAND ARTISAN MARKET-  
PLACE** — Ongoing. A weekly market  
featuring the fine arts and crafts cre-  
ated by local artists. Included will be  
handmade jewelry, sculptures, ceram-  
ics, paintings and drawings, photog-  
raphy, dolls, floral arrangements,  
clothing, soaps, and greeting cards.  
The three weekly markets are at dif-  
ferent sites in Oakland.

**Free.** (510) 238-4948.

**OAKLAND ZOO** — Ongoing. The  
zoo includes a Children's Petting  
Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a  
carousel, picnic grounds and a gift

shop as well as the animals in site  
specific exhibits, which allow them to  
roam freely. Included are "The African  
Savanna," with its two huge mixed-  
animal aviaries and 11 African Sa-  
vanna exhibits; the Mahali Pa Tembo  
(Place of the Elephant), with giraffes,  
chimpanzees and more than 330  
other animals from around the world;  
"Simba Pori," Swahili for "Lion Coun-  
try," a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offer-  
ing both a savanna and woodland  
setting for African lions; "Footprints  
from the Past," an anthropology ex-  
hibit showcasing four million years of  
human evolution and an actual "foot-  
path" of the first hominids to emerge  
from the African savanna; "Sun Bear  
Exhibit," a state-of-the-art space the  
zoo has developed for its two sun  
bears; and Siamang Island, a state-  
of-the-art, barrier-free area that emu-  
lates the gibbons' native tropical rain  
forest habitat. Also see the Malayan  
Fruit Bats from the Lubee Bat Conser-  
vancy in Florida that are now roosting  
in trees at the zoo. In addition there  
are special exhibits and events  
monthly.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** — Ongoing.  
"Animal Amore After Hours," Feb. 11,  
5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Come on this R-  
ated educational tour of the compli-  
cated and often comical love lives of  
the Zoo species. Finger food, wine,  
music, and mingling are part of this  
Valentine event. Child care is avail-  
able on request. Reservations re-  
quired. \$20 to \$25 per person. Reser-  
vations: (510) 632-9525 X204.



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- Keep the details of your estate completely private

**Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2006**

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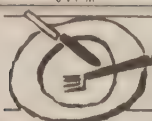
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# THE DINING GUIDE

## Featured Menu

### KATSU SUSHI



#### Combination dinner \$13.95

Choice of two different items served  
with soup, salad and rice

Chicken Teriyaki  
Don katsu  
Chicken katsu  
Beef teriyaki  
Gyoza  
Sashimi  
Cucumber roll  
Jnari  
Goma ae  
Age dashi tofu  
Vegetable tempura  
Saba shioyaki  
Tofu teriyaki  
Kaki fry  
Tempura combo  
Salmon teriyaki  
California roll  
Oshitashi roll  
Sea weed salad  
Vege-tempura roll  
Avocado roll

#### Nigiri (A La carte 2 pcs)

Saba • mackerel	\$3.80
Maguro • tuna	\$4.00
Hamachi • yellow tail	\$4.25
Aji • Spanish mackerel	\$4.50
Tkura • salmon roe	\$4.50
Tobi tama	\$4.75

#### Katsu special rolls

Katsu Star	\$11.50
Shrimp tempura, cucumber wrapped with unagi avocado tobiko on top & house special sauce	
Go Go	
Shrimp tempura spicy crabmeat	\$7.50
avocado wrapped with crunch and sauce	
Yummy Yummy	\$8.50
Shrimp tempura, crab avocado, cream cheese and tobiko	
J Love You	\$6.50
Spicy mayo with shrimp and crabmeat	

### Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant

Seafood/Prime Rib/Steak/Lobster/Cocktail

#### VALENTINE DINNER SPECIAL FOR 2 \$59.95

Clam Chowder Soup  
Caesar Salad  
Crab Cake Appetizer  
Prime Rib and Sauteed Prawns  
Homemade Chocolate Mousse and Cookie

Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner  
Sunday-Thursday 9am - 10pm  
Friday-Saturday 9-11pm

300 29th Avenue, Oakland • 261-1621

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At the foot of the Park St. Bridge in Oakland. Next to the Estuary  
Plenty of Free Parking. Banquet Facility Available.

#### Z Café & Bar

2735 Broadway, Oakland, (510) 633-2905

Offering unpretentious, contemporary American Bistro cuisine amidst a charming and sophisticated atmosphere just like cafés in Paris, Z Café & Bar changes its menus seasonally to capture flavors at their peak. Dining al fresco also can be enjoyed on our patio. Our wine focus is California, but we offer a selection featuring many regional and international favorites. Wine tasting flights are available daily. Our house mixologist stirs up specialty martinis, flavored mojitos, and exciting, fruity house cocktails that delight taste buds in the mood for exotic flavors. Breakfast Mon.-Fri. 7-10:30 a.m. Lunch Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dinner Wed.-Sat. 5 p.m.-close. Brunch Sun. 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Happy Hour Wed.-Sat. 4-7 p.m. www.zcafeandbar.com

#### Café Enrico

Since 1978, 875D Island Drive, Alameda, (510) 522-0128

For fine Italian dining at its best, visit Café Enrico overlooking the beautiful Harbor Bay Lagoon. Full bar service features special cocktails daily with exceptional wine selections. From gourmet seafood plates to Old World pastas, chicken dishes, sandwiches and even a dieter's menu, Café Enrico truly offers something to please everyone. In fact, many guests dine in two and three times a week. House specialty steamed (Manila clams and fresh seafood cioppino) are not to be missed. Café Enrico is open daily. Sat & Sun Brunch is served until 3 pm and Early Bird Specials (12.95) are served Mon-Fri until 6 pm and Sat & Sun until 5 pm. For Reservations, please call (510) 522-0129. MC, Visa, AME, handicap access. Casual attire. \$5

### Café Enrico

A Full Service Restaurant  
Under New Management

### Valentine's Day Menu

SEAFOOD & MUSHROOM CHOWDER SOUP  
OR  
SPRING SMOKED SALMON SALAD BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE

#### ENTRÉE

- ROASTED ORANGE DUCK WITH PORTWINE SAUCE
- BAKED VEAL
- WITH BUTTER MUSHROOM, EGGPLANT & TOPPED WITH MOZZARELLA CHEESE SAUCE
- TREASURY BOX FROM THE DEEP SEA - LOBSTER, SCALLOPS, PRAWNS
- TARRAGON CREAM SAUCE INSIDE A CRISPY PUFF PASTRY & GARLIC MASHED POTATO
- BOILED JUMBO LAMB CHOPS
- ROSEMARY GARLIC SAUCE SIDED WITH FRESH GRILLED PEACH
- BOILED FILET MIGNON
- WITH A 6 OZ PACIFIC LOBSTER TAIL & GARLIC MASHED POTATO

#### DESSERT

FRESH FRUIT TART IN RUM SAUCE

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Breakfast 7am - 11am • Open until 3am daily • Take-out orders welcome  
1324 Park St., Alameda 865-2588 Fax 865-2230

#### Juanita's

1324 Park Street, Alameda (510) 865-2588

Juanita's has been serving home style Mexican cooking since 1975 to generations of Bay Area diners. Patrons enjoy a margarita or cold cerveza at Juanita's with their choice of delicious Mexican appetizers and entrees. Including everyone's favorite - tacos, enchiladas, and fajitas. AC \$5 FB W

#### Katsu Sushi

1465 Webster Street, Alameda, (510) 749-8461

West Alameda's newest restaurant, Katsu Sushi, invites guests to an upscale dining experience with classic simplicity. Chef Sang Kim prepares all dishes from scratch and seafood is brought in fresh, directly from Japan. The menu is extensive, ranging from an extraordinary selection of sushi and sashimi, Udon/Soba, Donburi (over rice dishes), to pasta and an impressive variety of sake. Architect Duk Lee has created a dramatic backdrop for guests, marrying modern art with traditional design elements. Attention to even the most minor aesthetic detail is also mirrored in the elegant presentation of Katsu's dishes, offerings that are as much a work of art to the palate as to the eye. Katsu is open for lunch Mon.-Fri. from 11:30am to 2:30pm and open for dinner Mon.-Thurs. & Sun. from 5-9:30pm. Fri & Sat. 5-10pm. Reservations recommended.

#### Montclair Bistro

6118 Medau Place, Montclair Village, (510) 482-8282

Chef Henry Vortriede's philosophy of his restaurant, Montclair Bistro, is Metrix Cuisine, which he finds is "a synergy between the food on the table, the art on the walls, and the ambience of the restaurant. The result is a feeling of comfort and harmony between the food and the surroundings." The Bistro's cuisine is Creative California with a French Flare and offers gourmet delicacies for even the most discriminating palate. The dining experience is enhanced with a full bar and more than 150 wines and Vintage Ports. Montclair Bistro offers lunch, dinner, Happy Hour and Sunday Brunch. Please visit our ad for hours of operation. Reservations are recommended but not required. Visit www.montclairbistro.com.

#### Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant

300 - 29th Avenue, Oakland (510) 261-1621

Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, Angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular early bird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week. New business hours: Sun. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner.

#### Sushi House

2375 Shoreline Drive, Alameda (510) 865-0999

When it comes to sushi, one place on the island comes to mind. Come experience why locals & out-of-towners alike flock to Sushi House. Whether you're a fan of modern or traditional Japanese cuisine, Sushi House will delight your senses w/unique, award-winning sushi creations not found elsewhere on either side of the Bay. You've tried the rest. Now try the best! All seafood is delivered daily to ensure unrivaled quality & freshness. Showcasing these excellent beginnings are chef/owner James' own creations such as "Crazy Horse" - tuna, hamachi, salmon & avocado, "Crazy Monkey" - yellow tail, salmon, eel, tobiko and cucumber & "Dynamite" - yellow tail, salmon, tuna & halibut deep fried w/house special sauce - spicy! Frequent Sushi House diners John & Sallie Crittenden agreed that "James is a real artist & his sushi is the freshest we've ever tasted." Sushi House is open nonstop from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday & 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays. Plenty of free parking. From an intimate date to a big celebration, Sushi House is the hip & trendy place to be in Alameda! AE MC VS \$5

#### Amarin Thai Cuisine

1332 C Park St., Alameda CA 94501 (510) 748-0296

For 16 years, we have catered to Alameda with delicious, award-winning food and warm service in a friendly atmosphere. Make a normal day, your special day, by dining here at Amarin Thai. Celebrate Senior Citizens every Wednesday. We recognize and value your patronage and are offering 10% discount off your dining experience. Celebrate families every Saturday. Our family is very important to us and so is yours! Bring in your family and dine with us and receive a 10% off your meal. Our private banquet facility can accommodate large parties with great service and scrumptious food. Celebrate your holidays at Amarin Thai with Delicious, inviting, and affordable holiday planning. We are offering 10% off parties of 20 or more on reservations by December 15th.



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### Montclair Bistro

Open Feb. 13th from 6-9pm  
Feb. 14th seating at 5:00, 6:30,  
8:00, 9:30  
Regular & Prix Fixe Menus  
for Both days

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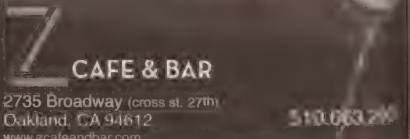
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\$5 Sangrias - \$6 Cocktails - \$8 Wine Tasting Flights



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SUSHI

Lunch

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Dinner

Mon-Thur & Sun 5-9:30pm

Fri & Sat 5-10pm

(510) 749-8461

1465 Webster Street, Alameda

Reservations Recommended

# THE DINING GUIDE

## Featured Menu

### Appetizers

Goma ae - steamed spinach with sesame sauce	\$3.95
Kani sunomono - crab meat and cucumber with vinegar	\$3.95
Agedashi tofu - battered tofu	\$4.50
Kaki fry - breaded oysters	\$5.95
Enoki beef - mushroom wrapped in grilled beef	\$6.50
Soft shell crab - deep fried crab with tartar sauce	\$7.95

### Salads

LA sea food salad - shrimp, tuna, crab meat, and avocado with dressing	\$9.95
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### Lunch Entrees

Charbroiled Chicken Teriyaki	\$6.95
Salmon Teriyaki	\$6.95
Charbroiled salmon with teriyaki sauce	\$7.95
Beef Teriyaki	\$7.95
Charbroiled beef with teriyaki sauce	\$7.95
Deep Fried	
Prawn tempura - battered prawns	\$7.95
Seafood tempura - seafood combination	\$8.50
Chicken katsu - breaded chicken	\$11.50
Don katsu - breaded lean pork loin	\$11.95

### O'Bento Box

Choice of two items	\$8.95
Choice of three items	\$11.95
Chicken teriyaki	Saba shioyaki
Don katsu	Tofu teriyaki
Chicken katsu	Kaki fry
Beef teriyaki	Tempura combo
Ayzoa	Salmon teriyaki
Sashimi	California roll
Cucumber roll	Oshitashi roll
Inari	Seaweed salad
Goma ae	Age dashi tofu
Vegetable tempura	Avocado roll
Vege-tempura roll	



tomatina

Bay Area favorite for Pizza, Pasta, Piadine  
Hours: 11:30 AM - 10 PM

Reservations - Alameda - Walnut Creek - Santa Clara

**Tomatina Restaurant**  
1338 Park St.  
Alameda, CA 510-521-1000

### Kamakura

2549 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda (510) 521-9121

Faith Yamato and the chefs of Kamakura present SHARI, the highest quality of rice that envelopes Sushi. The best short grain premium rice available in the USA is used for Kamakura's Sushi. The "Tamanishiki" brand of rice definitely provides the decisive edge in Sushi quality and taste. Following centuries-old Japanese culinary practice, the rice is gently steamed, then seasoned with an aged-vinegar blend, and carefully fanned to cool to achieve the perfect, firm, yet moist texture, pliable but not sticky; there is no shortcut. For authentic, delectable Sushi and original Japanese creations, dine-in, take-out and party catering, visit or contact Kamakura Restaurant, 2549 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, (510) 521-9121. Wheelchair access, accepting Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover. Open for Lunch Mon. - Sat. 11:30-2:30; Dinner served daily 5pm-10pm.

### Sophia Cafe

1247 Solano Ave., Albany (510) 526-8663

Sophia Cafe is a tiny haven for Mideast food. Owner Mori Dagan makes entrees and baked goods with a personal touch. For dinner enjoy schnitzel, moussake (sliced eggplant dish with ground beef) or the cous cous plate. Finish with a delightful dessert made in-house. For a limited time, enjoy early bird specials for only \$7.95. Offer valid only with mention of ad from 5-9pm. Take out and catering menus available upon request. Open Sun-Fri 11-9pm.

### La Pinata 3

1440 Park St., Alameda (510) 769-9111

La Pinata 3 has been indulging the Bay Area since 1978 with authentic, delicious Mexican cuisine. In 2005, La Pinata 3 introduced their Taco Bar, offering authentic Mexican tacos prepared the old-fashioned way, with traditional ingredients. In addition to Pinata 3's impressive menu, including Albondigas (meat ball soup), traditional Mexican breakfasts, and the famous Whole Red Snapper, delectable homemade pastures (desserts) and after dinner drinks are not to be missed. Perhaps most impressive about La Pinata 3 is the popular Tequila Bar. Serving the largest variety of 100% Agave tequilas in Alameda, and perhaps the entire East Bay, the tequila bar at La Pinata 3 is guaranteed to turn you in to a return guest. La Pinata 3 is open daily from 7am to 3am, and Happy Hour is from 4-5pm M-F. Weekend Specials and a \$9.50 Sunday Brunch are also available. [www.lapinata.com](http://www.lapinata.com). (Look for La Pinata #6 opening mid-August in Concord with 2 tequila bars!)

### Sabuy Sabuy II

1233 San Pablo, Berkeley (510) 528-3932

Enjoy Thai cuisine with California flair at the new Sabuy Sabuy II. Your visit will begin with a warm greeting, welcoming you to experience Sabuy Sabuy's specialties: savory soups, salads, delicious meat and Vegetarian dishes, all prepared with only the freshest vegetables and meats by family cooks with decades of experience. Dinner is served M-Sat from 5-9:30pm. Lunch is served daily from 11 am - 3pm with specials starting at \$5.95.

### El Caballo

891B Island Drive (Harbor Bay Island), Alameda,

(510) 521-4032

Family-owned El Caballo Mexican Restaurant has had a long-standing reputation for preparing delicious traditional dishes from scratch using nothing but the freshest ingredients of the highest quality. El Caballo is famous for their Especialidades De Mariscos (seafood specialties) including Paella Estilo Catalina, Cioppino, Siete Madres, Enchiladas Cabo San Lucas, and many others. In addition to delicious seafood entrees, El Caballo offers an impressive menu of Mexican favorites to please every palate. The family and staff at El Caballo have made it their utmost priority to offer you, their guests, a pleasant and relaxing dining experience. You are invited to enjoy authentic Mexican dining with a view over beautiful Harbor Bay Lagoon.

### Tomatina

1338 Park Street, Alameda (510) 521-1000

Tomatina is a Bay Area favorite for pizza, pasta, piadine and more! Our house-made pizza dough, dressings and sauces keep our food ahead of the rest. We update our menu several times a year to showcase seasonal produce, introduce new selections and keep our wine and beer selections exciting. Recently we introduced autumn flavors such as mushrooms, roasted tomatoes, white beans and squashes as well as a warm apple crisp and dense, fudgy chocolate cake. We pride ourselves on fresh, flavorful dishes, excellent service and a casual atmosphere as well as attractive and clean restaurants. We offer something for every guest: anything from lunch with friends and co-workers, a quick meal before a movie with the family or a casual spot for a first date. Come hungry; from garlic rolls to start and tiramisu to finish, we have what you want to eat! Check out our complete menus at [www.tomatina.com](http://www.tomatina.com). Restaurant Hours: 11:30 am to 10:00 pm. No reservations, first come, first seated. Large groups (10+) are encouraged to call ahead. Cash, DC, V, MC, AE, no checks.

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## Sabuy Sabuy II

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Delicious Meat and Vegetarian Dishes

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Monday - Friday  
11:00 am - 4:30 pm

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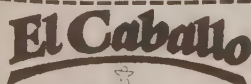
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**MEXICAN RESTAURANT**  
Authentic Mexican Dining  
with view over beautiful Harbor Bay Lagoon

**50% OFF**

Purchase one entree and receive 50% OFF  
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Offer exp. 2/28/06

891-B Island Dr., Alameda  
TEL (510) 521-4032





TRIP to Utah, Burt (Hopkins, right) befriends an array of people, including a soldier (Patrick Dempsey) on leave from war.

## Hopkins keeps 'Indian' on track

By Randy Myers  
STAFF WRITER

inspirational road picture "The World's Fastest Indian" is a ride on the charm of its star, Anthony Hopkins. The good news is that Sir An- is charismatic and quirky 80-year-old New Zealander travels to Utah to race his star vehicle, a sort of motorcycle. The bad news is this star vehicle, a sort of "With Charley" that swaps the dog for a makeshift "hog," always equal that twinkle in his eyes.

When the instant we meet Burt (Hopkins), we know it's for a treat. He's a cushy-optimist, a codger who has folksy wisdom and has eccentricities than pre- from his daily morn- on his lemon tree to ring for a date by buffing emails with a sander. He's a bit of a loner, too, liv- in a converted garage where he spends most of his time with a neighbor kid, retrofitting his 1920 Indian Twin Scout motorcycle, which he refers to as "Charley."

determined yet gentle Burt to realize his dream of rac- vintage claptrop (which resembles a tadpole), at the Bonneville Salt Flats race

### REVIEW

- **WHAT:** "The World's Fastest Indian"
- **STARRING:** Anthony Hopkins, Diane Ladd, Paul Rodriguez
- **RATING:** PG-13 (brief language, drug use and a sexual reference)
- **RUNNING TIME:** 2 hours, 7 minutes
- **WHERE:** Opens today at CineArts, Pleasant Hill; Shattuck Cinemas, Berkeley; Bay Street 16, Emeryville; AMC 1000 Van Ness, S.F.; Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, San Rafael
- **GRADE:** B-

in Utah. Townsfolk think Burt's a touch daft and humor his desire.

Against his doc's advice (Burt has a bum ticker and a weak prostate), he packs up his motorcycle and embarks on an incredible journey to the United States. As soon as he lands in a fast-paced Los Angeles of the '60s, it's obvious he's a Kiwi out of water. An encounter with a surly cab-driver gives him a taste of that.

But surliness is not really welcome in "World's Fastest," and from then on, Burt finds support and kindness from strangers.

On his adventures from Los

Angeles to Utah, Burt befriends a colorful cast of characters, including a transvestite motel clerk (Chris Williams), a used car salesman (Paul Rodriguez), a sexually vibrant widow (a sweet but realistic Diane Ladd), and a soldier (Patrick Flueger) on leave from the Vietnam War so he can visit his girl. Each encounter has a homey Wobegon feel to it, never an "On the Road" Jack Kerouac edge.

Writer and director Roger Donaldson ("The Recruit," "Dante's Peak") does a fine job of stringing these encounters together, but at times the movie seems too self-aware about wanting to make us feel all warm and fuzzy. Donaldson also could have tightened the movie up a bit, since its meandering style wears thin in a two-hour-plus running time.

Fortunately, Hopkins comes to the rescue whenever Donaldson seems to be veering toward the sappy. The fine actor displays just the right touch, never making his Burt buffoonish or saintly, and his performance pushes the "World's Fastest" right over the finish line.

Reach Randy Myers at [rmyers@ctimes.com](mailto:rmyers@ctimes.com) or at 925-977-8419.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST SELLERS

Compiled from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern California.

#### Fiction

1. "Arthur & George," by Julian Barnes. (Knopf, \$24.95.)
2. "Memories of My Melancholy Whores," by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. (Knopf, \$20.)
3. "S Is for Silence," by Sue Grafton. (Putnam, \$26.95.)
4. "Saving Fish From Drowning," by Amy Tan. (Putnam, \$26.95.)
5. "On Beauty," by Zadie Smith. (Penguin, \$25.95.)
6. "The Lighthouse," by P.D. James. (Knopf, \$25.95.)
7. "The Brooklyn Follies," by Paul Auster. (Holt, \$24.)
8. "The Da Vinci Code," by Dan Brown. (Doubleday, \$24.95.)
9. "Son of a Witch," by Gregory Maquire. (Regan Books, \$26.95.)
10. "The March," by E.L. Doctorow. (Random House, \$25.95.)

#### Nonfiction

1. "The Year of Magical Thinking," by Joan Didion. (Knopf, \$23.95.)
2. "Freakonomics," by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. (William Morrow, \$25.95.)
3. "State of War," by James Risen. (Free Press, \$26.)
4. "Blink," by Malcolm Gladwell. (Little, Brown, \$25.95.)
5. "Marley & Me," by John Grogan. (William Morrow, \$21.95.)
6. "Sex and the Seasoned Woman," by Gail Sheehy. (Random House, \$25.95.)
7. "Our Endangered Values," by Jimmy Carter. (Simon & Schuster, \$25.)
8. "The World Is Flat," by Thomas L. Friedman. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$27.50.)
9. "My Friend Leonard," by James Frey. (Riverhead, \$24.95.)
10. "Misquoting Jesus," by Bart D. Ehrman. (HarperSanFrancisco, \$24.95.)

#### Trade paperback fiction

1. "Gilead," by Marilynne Robinson. (Picador, \$14.)
2. "The Kite Runner," by Khaled Hosseini. (Riverhead, \$14.)
3. "Brokeback Mountain," by Annie Proulx. (Scribner, \$9.95.)
4. "Kafka on the Shore," by Haruki Murakami. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
5. "Memoirs of a Geisha," by Arthur Golden. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
6. "Case Histories," by Kate Atkinson. (Back Bay, \$13.95.)

7. "Runaway," by Alice Munro. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
8. "Snow," by Orhan Pamuk. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
9. "Prep," by Curtis Sittenfeld. (Random House, \$13.95.)
10. "Close Range," by Annie Proulx. (Scribner, \$14.)

#### Trade paperback nonfiction

1. "A Million Little Pieces," by James Frey. (Anchor, \$14.95.)
2. "Night," by Elie Wiesel. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$9.)
3. "Collapse," by Jared Diamond. (Penguin, \$17.)
4. "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man," by John Perkins. (Plume, \$15.)
5. "Animals in Translation," by Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson. (Harvest, \$15.)
6. "The End of Faith," by Sam Harris. (Norton, \$13.95.)
7. "In Cold Blood," by Truman Capote. (Vintage, \$14.)
8. "The Tipping Point," by Malcolm Gladwell. (Back Bay, \$14.95.)
9. "San Francisco Bay Area Restaurants," by the editors of Zagat Survey. (Zagat, \$13.95.)
10. "The Devil in the White City," by Erik Larson. (Vintage, \$14.95.)

## Obituaries and In Memoriam



**Adele Solveig Wrasse**  
January 10, 1914 - January 26, 2006

Adele Solveig Wrasse, age 92, died peacefully at her home in Oakland, CA under the loving care of her daughter, Diane. She was preceded in death by her husband Victor Edison Wrasse in July 1994, daughter Carolyn Marie Josephian in November 1987, sons-in-law Ronald Duane Hill in January 1990 and Roger E. Josephian in June 2004, and in-laws Dorothy Mykles in October 1998 and Charles Harms in February 2003. She was born in Chicago, Illinois to Norwegian parents Olga and Hjalmar Myklebust but liked to tell everyone she was conceived in Norway. She moved there at the age of 8 months before returning to the United States with her family at the age of 12. After sailing to Ellis Island on the ship Bergenford, the family traveled from Halifax, NY by rail to Richmond, California in 1926 and settled in Oakland, where she remained the rest of her life. She was a licensed beautician and operated a beauty shop from her home for over 50 years. She met Victor, her husband, in church, married him August 4, 1937 and had two daughters, Diane and Carolyn. They celebrated their 50th anniversary surrounded by friends and relatives. Although Adele joined the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland in 1996, she had attended faithfully many years prior and was an alto singer in the choir as well as a member of the Bible Study group. She was a longtime member of the Nordmanns Forbundet Norwegian Club and an avid reader of romance novels. She was outspoken and articulate, beautiful and courageous and an outrageous flirt. She loved her family above all else and was always ready to listen, offer comfort, give advice and cook up a skillet of bacon and eggs at any hour of the day. Christmas Eve at Grandma's was an annual tradition for the grandchildren. She is survived by siblings Harold Mykles and spouse Pauline, Norman Mykles and Lillian Harms; daughter Diane Adele Wrasse Hill; grandchildren Jenny Josephian, Linda Carter and spouse Larry, John Josephian, Roger Josephian and spouse Barbara, Julie Pilling and spouse Dean, Michael Josephian and spouse Erica, Jason Josephian and spouse Moshiese, Sarah Josephian and her mother Gloria; great-grandchildren Joshua Josephian, Johanna Josephian, Nicole Josephian, Billy Josephian, Jacob Josephian, Aspen Pilling, Sierra Rose Pilling, Elijah Josephian and Ashby Josephian; nieces Patty Orlando and Kay Miller; nephews Gil Mykles, Gary Mykles, John Harms, Bob Harms, Earl Mykles and Don Mykles.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial service celebrating her life at First Presbyterian Church, 27th and Broadway in Oakland, on Monday, Feb. 6 at 1:30 p.m. with interment following at Mt. View Cemetery.

Grant-Miller John Cox Mortuary  
Oakland, FD 171  
(510) 451-6434



**Judith G. Dodge**

Judith G. Dodge passed away peacefully on January 28, 2006, after successfully fighting colon cancer for more than a year. She died at her home, with her loving family by her side. She was 59. Judy was raised in Ventura, California and was a resident of Piedmont for more than 20 years. Judy was the longtime owner of Montclair Travel in Oakland, California. Prior to buying the agency, Judy worked for many years in Oakland as a legal secretary at several firms including: Gwilliam & Ivory, McCarthy & Allen, the Eriksen and the Kincaid Law Firms. Before her legal career, Judy flew around the world while working as a flight attendant. During the Vietnam War era, Judy worked on chartered aircraft which flew troops to and from the war zone. Judy strongly believed in "giving back" and was proud to have volunteered throughout her life in her community. She counseled at Planned Parenthood in Oakland, tutored illiterate adults at the Oakland library, and donated many hours at Piedmont schools. She served as President of Camp Fire, was co-leader of her daughter's Camp Fire troop, and also gave of her time with the Children's Support League. She and her daughter Lindsey volunteered at many other charities through their work with the National Charity League. She was also a member of the Bellevue Club. Judy had a lifetime love of travel, and was grateful to have lived in Spain and Italy for almost two years with her first husband and best friend, Larry Dodge. Judy's greatest joy was her family, which included her "family of choice" made up of many dear friends who cherished and supported her. She loved the good times and conversations at numerous "cross-generational" get-togethers with both friends and family throughout each year.

Judy is survived by her husband Hank Aasand, her loving daughters Lindsey McCarthy and Katy McCarthy (and husband Randy Strauss) and their sisters Christine McCarthy, Elizabeth McCarthy and brother John McCarthy. The children's father, and love of her life, Martin F. McCarthy, predeceased Judy by 20 years. Also surviving her are her sister and brother-in-law, Telva and Larry Koonitz of Ventura. Aunt Judy will be lovingly remembered by her nieces and nephews and their children: Joshua and Jamie, Trevor, and Trisha Koonitz of Ventura; Danielle and Kyle Mitchell of Roseville; Sean and Michelle Martin of Fremont. Judy was preceded in death by her sister, Gloria Martin. Judy graduated from Buena High School in Ventura. She attended San Diego State University, as well as Mills College.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, California 94611. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the Alameda County Health Care Foundation, Critical Care Unit.



**Helen Buffinton Beck**  
May 12, 1916 - January 27, 2006

Helen Buffington Beck was her own woman. She created and built a home with her adoring husband, Joseph Victor Beck, off Skyline in Piedmont Pines in 1953 and lived there until the mid-80's and returning recently to spend her last days at the family home. Her three loving daughters Marian, Linda and Carol will mourn her loss.

Helen June prized her independence. She worked outside the home as a secretary, book-keeper, administrator for more than 20 years. Helen June grew up in socially and economically diverse circumstances; both her Irish and English heritage were constant sources for character building. Her love of God formed her values and beliefs. Her children and grandchildren were her delight. Helen June Buffington Beck will be cherished in memory by family and friends. The humorous and pithy stories, sayings and examples she gave to those who would sit by her side to listen are her legacy.

Visitation and vigil will be held on Friday, February 3, 2006 at 7 p.m. in Oakmont Memorial Park, Redwood Room. Mass in St. John Vianney Church, Walnut Creek Saturday February 4th at 10 a.m.

Burial will be Saturday, February 4, 2006 at Queen of Heaven Cemetery located at 2099 Reliz Valley Road, Lafayette, CA. (925) 935-3311.



**George E. Perry**

George E. Perry, 72, passed away peacefully following a heart bypass surgery.

George was an educator, administrator, advocate, and a loyal friend to many.

Services will be held tomorrow, February 4th at 1:30 pm at Head-Royce school, 4315 Lincoln Ave. in Oakland.

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JVM



**BILL MANN**  
Multimedia Notes

## Agnew's lineup fails to entertain

**T**HE REVERSE Midas touch of alleged radio programming hotshot Bob Agnew has surfaced again ... with the usual dull thud.

A brief history: Agnew is the "genius" who inflicted over-the-hill sports talk show host Pete Franklin on listeners here for years when Agnew was programming KNBR. He even brought Franklin's embarrassing shtick back a second time.

Agnew's also responsible for bringing John London's pandering act back to the Bay Area on KNBR's morning show. London had previously befooled the morning airwaves at KMEL. Agnew "rediscovered" London and brought him back from L.A., a city used to air pollution. London was finally sent packing last fall — and soon, so was Agnew, following the Larry Krueger/Felipe Alou flap over Krueger's stupid racial comments on KNBR.

Agnew quickly resurfaced and is now running Clear Channel talk stations KNEW (910 AM, right wing) and "The Quake" (960 AM, left wing).

Agnew's latest feckless attempt at radio rehab is one Paul Wells, moderator of The Quake's new morning show featuring Willie Brown and Will Durst. Wells was known as "The Lobster" when he DJ'd on several Bay Area rock stations. Better he should have stuck with playing Aerosmith: This new show, "Keeping It Real," is really, really awful — mostly, but not entirely, because of Wells.

The Bay Area needs a progressive station like The Quake to counterbalance the two right-wing stations here, KNEW and KSFO. And The Quake (KQKE) needs a local morning show as an alternative to Lee Rogers' mean-spirited rantings on Disney-owned KSFO. But alas, this isn't it.

Wells, trying unsuccessfully to slip into pundit mode, referred to liberal columnist Molly Ivins on one recent show as "Molly Irvin" — not once, but twice. Wells also used a line, "weapons of mass distraction," that was old two years ago. I'll bet Wells thought it was clever.

As for Brown and Durst, they probably need a radio pro working with them, but Wells isn't it. (Someone like local progressive tonsil Peter B. Collins, perhaps?).

Brown is a rarity — a performer who's actually better on TV than radio. With his expressive face, infectious grin and snappy wardrobe, Brown was a rising star as a political commentator when he gave election night coverage with Chris Matthews on cable.

Brown also appears regularly on KRON with Phil Matier, a know-it-all who's constantly interrupting Da Mayor. Brown usually has something interesting, enlightening or funny to offer, and is certainly an experienced political pro. But on radio, his act isn't nearly as effective.

Durst is a pedestrian, over-rated political comic who's also made a nice side income for years doing radio spots for unions and progressive causes. I'm waiting, however, for someone to ask Durst why he also recorded radio ads for the powerful agribusiness interests that helped defeat Sonoma County's eco-friendly Rural Heritage Initiative six years ago. A recent guest on "Keepin' It Real With Will and Willie" was a strong one: classy Rep. Barbara Lee of Oakland, who'd just returned from New Orleans and said, "There's no pulse in the Ninth Ward. Nothing is working there."

As Lee departed, Brown gave the congresswoman a fond send-off: "She can't be bought, she can't be bossed."

One more problem with Air America affiliate KQKE's new morning show: It runs from 6 to 10 a.m., which means the network's top talent, Al Franken, is now delayed an hour here.

Reach Bill Mann at [Newsmann@sonic.net](mailto:Newsmann@sonic.net).

# Mamma sings praises of family

By Jennifer Modenessi  
STAFF WRITER

Relentless touring. Negotiating record contracts. Getting distribution. Scoring gigs. Sometimes you have to wonder what would make a person dive into a music career.

For singer Jenna Mamma, it's pretty clear.

"It's my family," she proudly says. "That's what drives me to do it."

Mamma's family is incredibly supportive and something of a constant presence. The Albany vocalist is known to play with her brother Nino, an accomplished jazz guitarist. Brother Mitch handles booking. Mother Grace runs Mamma Grace Records, the grass-roots Michigan-based label that has released all five of Mamma's albums, including her latest CD, "Inner Smile."

Mamma's warm voice — think Ricki Lee Jones or velvet-piped Hope Sandoval — glides through jazz standards, '70s folk-pop-rock, and self-penned tunes backed by tasteful guitar, subtle percussion and a top-notch group of musicians. It sounds effortless, and that's what makes Mamma's vocals so appealing. You realize how genuine and unaffected her voice really is when Mamma suddenly breaks out into spontaneous talk-song.

Although she's performing live 250 days a year, Mamma's talents aren't limited to theaters, festivals, clubs and the hometown circuit. The founder of the Scat for Cats music program for children "ages 3 to 103" takes her workshops to classrooms, parks, reservations and any place people are willing to learn how to improvise and sing.

Today, though, Mamma's enjoying a smoothie while roots reggae music pumps out from the stereo of an Afro-Caribbean restaurant in Berkeley. She smiles and shares a tidbit. The owner of the soul food place told her that hers is one of the few non-reggae CDs he'll play in his restaurant. For an eclectic singer intent on exploring and crossing different genres, that's music to the ears.

**Q: Tell us about your family. What kind of role do they play in your career?**

**A:** My mother is from New Mexico, from a large Native American and Spanish family of 18 children. They lived on a ranch and entertained themselves having full bands. My father is from Michigan and he is an accordion and organ player. We started singing in church. My brother Nino, a vocalist and guitarist,



"MY FAMILY drives me to do this. It has given us a way to work together as adults but be blessed to have it be our families doing it." — singer Jenna Mamma.

## WHERE TO SEE HER

■ **WHO:** Singer Jenna Mamma

■ **WHEN AND WHERE:** 8 p.m. Saturday, Freight & Salvage, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley

■ **HOW MUCH:** \$18.50-\$19.50

■ **CONTACT:** 510-548-1761, [www.thefreight.org](http://www.thefreight.org), [www.jennamamma.com](http://www.jennamamma.com)

started playing professionally at age 12. I was singing in clubs with him when I was 5 or 6 years old.

**Q: What type of musical genres were you interested in?**

**A:** Jazz. I've always liked pop music. I like jazz standards, which were considered pop tunes during the '40s. I like a lot of '70s pop just because it's very vocal-friendly. I grew up harmonizing to Carole King and James Taylor ... my first record was Jim Croce.

Having older brothers and sisters, I was exposed to a lot of rock 'n' roll like Led Zeppelin, Earth, Wind & Fire ... and then my mom and dad were into Nat King Cole.

**Q: What do you like about performing live and being onstage?**

**A:** Magic happens! I do a lot of traveling. Getting the shows together every time, every detail ... if I do a concert in my hometown, my mom is selling tickets, my dad is putting the lights on. **Q: It really sounds like a family affair.**

**A:** It is, it truly is. It's an amazing story. It works. My family drives me to do this. It has given us a way to work together as adults but be blessed to have it be our families doing it. My brother Mitch will come on tour with me a lot. It's nice to look out into the audience and see my brother or hear my mom's voice. It just feels good that they know all the business ... they see me

at the beginning of the day, they see me get nervous, and then up onstage. My mom's sitting there selling CDs and my dad is meeting everybody, and then we get to go home and look back and see what we did.

**Q: Tell us a little bit about Scat for Cats.**

**A:** It's a workshop that I created for teaching kids to improvise, sing and move, clap, snap their fingers, tap their feet and tap their toes. Kids start laughing. It inspires them to sing. We've played in Native American reservations in Arizona where they didn't even have a drumstick; New York City, in parks, in the Bronx. We do a lot of fund-raising for the schools, and I also do a lot of fund-raising and awareness for Parkinson's, which I'm really stepping up this year. My brother Nino has Parkinson's, so I'm really learning more and more about it and watching

younger people develop it. I don't really understand it. I know that I have a road to go with him. It is meeting other people, it, family members, so that I can get that support. I also be able to support Parkinson's foundation.

**Q: With so much on your mind, what's happening while you're onstage singing? Can you describe it?**

**A:** I feel like I'm the son onstage that I am which I like. I feel wonderful way to connect with whomever I am on a different level. It's people and I love to connect and give to people, and another way that I can makes me feel the best.

Reach Jennifer Modenessi at [jmodenessi@cctimes.com](mailto:jmodenessi@cctimes.com) or 977-8483.

# Look at Iraq war through nine sets of eyes

By Pat Craig  
STAFF WRITER

To those of us accustomed to the CNN-style cordite and carnage coverage of the Iraq war, Heather Raffo's much more personal journey through the same territory offers a jarring injection of humanity into the business of battle.

"9 Parts of Desire," which opened Wednesday at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, looks at decades of conflict and war through the eyes of nine women, ranging from a young American woman whose relatives live in Iraq to the Mulaya, a professional mourner, who grieves poetically not just for the current war but the ages of bloodshed that came before it.

What makes the evening event is the fact all nine extremely distinctive characters are played by one woman, Mozhan Marno (in previous productions, including the New York run, author Raffo played the roles). Marno, a slender young woman, delivers a towering performance that not only makes each character her own, but gives a cohesive feel to the piece that consists of diverse vignettes by extremely different characters in a wide variety of situations, common only because they are somehow involved with the ongoing war.

The individual parts seem, in fact, to be stronger than the piece as a whole, and occasionally Raffo's script strays into the melodramatic, but the overall impact is nothing short of stunning as the stories unfold on a set that at once is a battle-ravaged ancient building, a river of life and a London apartment of an Iraqi expat,

## THEATER REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents "9 Parts of Desire," by Heather Raffo

■ **WHEN:** Tuesdays-Sundays through March 5

■ **WHERE:** Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 30 minutes

■ **HOW MUCH:** \$30-\$59

■ **CONTACT:** 510-847-2949, [www.berkeleyrep.org](http://www.berkeleyrep.org)

who prefers whiskey to a serious stab at returning home.

Characters presented in rapid succession include Layal, a fatalistic artist who will remain in Iraq, despite the battle, to continue her art and court the favor of those who might help her paint her nudes and portraits of Saddam; and the American, whose Iraqi-immigrant father came to the United States 40 years ago and plays golf five days a week. She became acquainted with relatives remaining in the homeland after Sept. 11, when they telephoned to make sure she was safe — now, she watches the bombings on television, fearing she will see those same relatives as victims.

There is Amal, a multi-married Bedouin woman, who has lived in London and around the Middle East, and is trapped somewhere between tradition and a desire for a modern life. There is Samura, an Iraqi girl who pouts when the home electricity fails and prevents her from watching 'N Sync. She also laments the fact

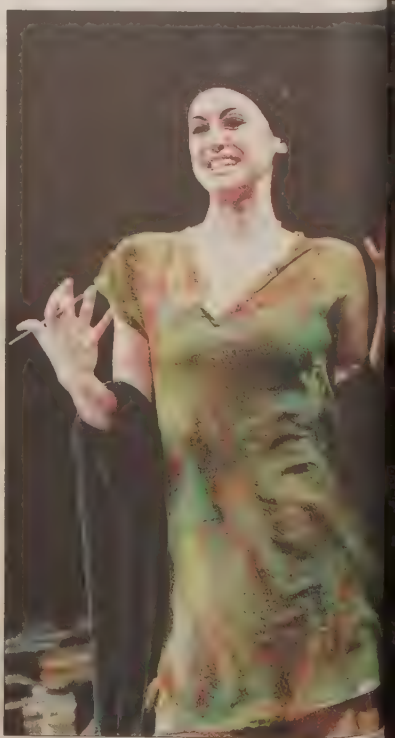
...the overall impact is nothing short of stunning as the stories unfold on a set that at once is a battle-ravaged ancient building, a river of life and a London apartment of an Iraqi expat, who prefers whiskey to a serious stab at returning home.

she can't go to school, because she waved at the American soldiers, many of whom resemble Justin Timberlake.

All the characters are tremendously memorable in themselves, and director Joanna Settle has made them even more vivid by a careful arrangement of their places around the Antje Ellerman set, which almost becomes a second character in the play.

Audience members expecting a conventional story here will be disappointed. Instead of a single story running through the show, there are many tales, none of which draw to a conclusion, other than the one each viewer must make on his own.

And that seems to be the major appeal of the piece — although it plays endlessly with emotions, it never forces a particular point of view. In fact, it is



MOZHAN MARNO makes each character her own in Berkeley Rep's "9 Parts of Desire."

almost apolitical, and refreshingly so, as it creates an atmosphere to examine feelings on the war from a less political and

more human point of view. Reach Pat Craig at [pcraig@cctimes.com](mailto:pcraig@cctimes.com) or 4736 or [pcraig@cctimes.com](mailto:pcraig@cctimes.com)

## cars.com

Section D

BY TOM KEANE  
MOTOR MATTERS

...told the front row seats have one more fore-and-aft travel compared to other models. Also, the seats now have foam and more aggressive bolsters. There are individual controls for the driver and front passenger. Another im-



MOTOR MATTERS

**THE TAHOE SEATS** up to nine people and commands the title of Chevy's best-selling full-size SUV.

## KEANE ON WHEELS

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Torque	340 @ 4,200 rpm	
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Height	77 inches	
Curb Weight	5,537 pounds	
Fuel Capacity	26 gallons	
Mileage	City/highway 15/21	

What makes the new Tahoe distinctive

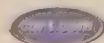
With such a strong, rigid structure, the safety of every occupant is much improved

All things considered, even though we're in the age of driving smaller for better fuel economy, I see no reason why the new Tahoe won't continue its reign as King of the Mountain.

## INSIDE

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Down the Road . . . . . Page D2

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## 1966 Ford Mustang has become part of the family

BY VERN PARKER  
MOTOR MATTERS

Vic van Leeuwen's old Volkswagen served him well as he served in the Air Force in Alabama. But he was about to be discharged on May 30, 1966 and he had a job that required going to school in New York. He knew "that old VW wouldn't make it."

Up until then van Leeuwen was convinced of the superiority of the foreign car. But then reality set in. He needed affordable and reliable transportation from Alabama to New York.

"Then two things happened," he says, "I saw a Mustang 2+2 fastback on the highway, liked it and then found out the GT model came with disc brakes and heavy-duty suspension."

It was getting late in the model year and the Huntsville dealer couldn't help, nor could the Decatur dealer. The Birmingham dealership didn't have one, but said they knew where they could find one. Vic van Leeuwen negotiated a price on the car that he had not seen, let alone driven or sat in.

One reason it was so difficult to find was that it was by far the least produced Mustang model in 1966 with only 35,698 manufactured. Features that make a Mustang a GT include: fog lamps, GT stripes, dual exhausts, faster steering, stiffer suspension, Kelsey Hayes disc brakes, and an additional 21-horsepower engine.

### CLASSIC CLASSICS

A few days later the folks at the O.Z. Hall Ford dealership telephoned to say they had his Signatone red Mustang. On Saturday his brother, Phil, drove him the 100 miles or so to Birmingham to get his new Mustang.

In those days, van Leeuwen explains, air conditioning on Mustangs was a dealer-installed accessory. The brothers had to kill half a day while the underdash air conditioner was installed.

Finally, he took possession of his Mustang 2+2 GT fastback with an A-code 289-cubic-inch 4-valve, 225-horsepower V8, with a Ford Top-Loader four-speed transmission. The interior was the standard black and he opted for the faux wire wheel covers.

He drove his new Mustang home Saturday afternoon, packed his new car with his belongings, and on Sunday headed north to New York.

"I babied it for the first 500 miles," he says, although it was difficult to rein in the powerful pony. Almost 1,000 miles later, he arrived on Monday.

"The car was great," he says, "and I've enjoyed that car ever since." After his schooling was completed in New York, he retraced his steps back home to Alabama.

A few years later he went to college — in his Mustang. There



VIC VAN LEEUWEN RETIRED his Mustang 2+2 GT fastback in 1985, after the odometer had been around twice.

he met a student named Ann, dated her in his Mustang, proposed to her in his Mustang and went to Nashville in 1970 on their honeymoon in their Mustang.

"I overhauled the engine in 1972 at 123,000 miles," van Leeuwen says. His work took him to Texarkana, Ark., in 1974-75 and of course the trip was made in the Mustang.

"I retired the car in 1985 after the odometer had been around twice," he says. He parked it near his Madison, Ala., home for almost seven years. In 1992 van Leeuwen and his son, Daniel, began restoring the car. It was a comparatively easy restoration since the car had never been wrecked. "It had been scuffed a few times," the owner admits.

The original 6.95x14-inch tires have been replaced by radial Michelin tires for improved handling and safety. A tinted windshield is the only piece of glass that has been replaced. van Leeuwen confesses that when he takes his tried and true Mustang out for a fair weather cruise, "I feel a bit naked." In the 40 years since his car was built, all manufactur-

ers have made improvements which are obviously in his car.

For your car to be subject of the Classic Column, send a photo (front view) plus brief details to Vern Parker, 10000 E. 10th Ave., Suite 100, Denver, CO 80231. Only photos of good quality considered.

## Radiator fluid leak can be stopped without clogging system

BY JUNIOR DANATO  
MOTOR MATTERS

**Dear Doctor:** I own a 1993 Buick with 63,000 miles. I use it as a second car for local driving. It has a slight coolant leak at the radiator, only a few drops. Could I add a little stop-leak in the radiator? If so, what brand do you recommend? — James

**Dear James:** In some cases radiator stop-leak will stop leaks in the cooling system, including small gasket and radiator leaks. I use a couple of different brands including Bar's Leaks. This product seems to work well without clogging the heater core.

**Dear Doctor:** I would like your opinion on the 2006 Subaru Forester with a manual transmission. A friend owned one years ago and it did not have much power. The engine also seemed

### AUTO DOCTOR

noisy. But it seems to be a lot of car for the money. — Sara

**Dear Sara:** Subaru, like other import brands, has made vast improvements over the years. They still have the same flat engine design that has been around for many years. Subaru has done a good job on fine-tuning the engine. The standard Forester has 173 horsepower. With the five-speed manual, the base engine seems fine. There is also a turbocharged engine available. I recently spent a week driving the 2006 Forester five-speed with no problems. The clutch is easy to push down and both the heated seats and heating system warm up quickly. There is also plenty of headroom. In a few inches

of snow, the all-wheel drive system showed me what Subaru's all-wheel drive is all about. The car moved effortlessly through the snow.

**Dear Doctor:** We own a 2000 Oldsmobile Intrigue with 54,000 miles. The car will sometimes not turn over when I turn the key. It acts like the battery is dead. I have had the car to the shop several times with no luck. Any help would be appreciated. — William

**Dear William:** Did the technicians check the computer for trouble codes in the computer and security system? Was the security light flashing when the starter did not engage? In some cases a factory Tech 1 or Tech 2 scan tool must be used to check codes. As I have mentioned in the past, a small test light can be connected to the starter S terminal and ground, placed by the lower part

of the windshield in view of the driver. When the key is turned to the start position, the light will illuminate if there is power to the starter when the key is turned to the start position. The factory anti-theft system has had some problems, especially at the ignition key cylinder. This can cause the intermittent no-start condition that is common in the factory GM anti-theft system.

**Dear Doctor:** I own a 1998 Buick LeSabre. The airbag light stays on. I have been told it could be very expensive to repair. How can I find the actual cost of repair and is there any law saying I have to get it repaired? I am on a fixed income. — Jim

**Dear Jim:** You will have to check with the local authorities on the state inspection laws; states have different motor vehicle in-

spection laws. You should also have the computer codes checked to see what fault codes are in memory so you can get an idea of the cost of repair.

**Dear Doctor:** I own a 1983 Lincoln Mark VI that needs a new gas float unit. My mechanic said it is no longer available. Any suggestions on locating one would be appreciated. — John

**Dear John:** I would first have the dealer parts department run a nationwide search. They have the ability to do so in a matter of seconds with other Ford Lincoln dealers' inventories. Another idea is to check salvage yards. Many speed shops have aftermarket fuel senders that can be adapted to your car. Another possibility is to replace the broken float unit with an aftermarket float unit parts.

**Dear Doctor:** I own a 1987 Nis-

san Maxima. When I step on the brake pedal, a light illuminates the dash. A friend told me indicates there is a brake light switch. I checked the lights and work. Could it be a relay? — David

**Dear David:** If the light indicates a light out, check all rear lights, including high-mount rear brake lights. Make sure that the connection being used in the corner is checked. Some cars also have a float in the master reservoir that can trigger a warning light on the dash. A brake pedal is depressed way the car should be checked by a professional technician.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lake Bluff, IL 60064.

## Nissan designers seek new directions

BY HERB SHUDINER  
MOTOR MATTERS

Nissan designers and engineers are pushing the design envelope in an effort to close the gap between their brand and Honda and Toyota, the dominant Japanese carmakers.

Shiro Nakamura, senior vice president-design for Nissan, says that his next project blurs the line between minivans and crossover SUVs. He plans to create a new vehicle that combines the elements of those categories.

"In the next couple of years we're going to bring out a new segment," he says. The new model will bridge the gap between cars and trucks, he predicts. "We have the freedom for designers and engineers to blur the line between cars and trucks."

"At the same time, we want to pursue traditional designs such as the Infiniti G35," Jan Thompson, Nissan's vice president marketing, says a new generation G35 sedan will be introduced at the New York International Auto Show in April. She predicts the new G35 will spur Infiniti sales.

Thompson says that current Infiniti models are already capturing some of the youngest buyers in the luxury brand segment. "They're in their early 40s and 30s," she claims.

### DOWN THE ROAD

"That's why you'll see Infiniti continue to grow and separate itself from the pack."

Thompson promises Infiniti will create new models that will continually excite buyers of near-luxury and luxury cars. "That will drive our growth in the luxury market," she says.

Nakamura's team is working to make that happen, not only to Infiniti, but also to the more broadly based Nissan lineup. He is also intent on creating vehicles that are appropriate to each market that Nissan sells vehicles in. "We don't have global cars, except in the sports car and luxury segments," he reveals.

The designer notes that 90 percent of Maxima, Altima and Sentra sales take place in the U.S. Those models are too big for sale in Japan and Europe, he says. Nakamura also points out that full-size pickups and SUVs are North American specific designs.

Japanese buyers covet much smaller cars. Nissan's biggest seller in Japan and Europe is the Skyline, a model that is not sold here. The Micra is also popular in those re-

gions, but not offered here because it's too small for this market.

However, luxury models like the G35 and sports cars like the Nissan 350Z appeal to buyers globally. "Premium car buyers have similar lifestyles in all markets," Nakamura says. "For mass-produced cars however, there are pronounced differences in what consumers in different markets expect."

At the recent North American International Auto Show, Nissan introduced a concept car that is targeted at drivers who love computerized games. Nissan designers in La Jolla, Calif., designed the Urge that includes MP3 connectivity, a built-in Xbox 360 video game console and a cellphone that doubles as a "key" to start the car.

The three-seat Urge was also inspired by motorcycle design. It features a six-speed motorcycle-style manual transmission. It's aimed at competing with the Pontiac Solstice and Mazda Miata. Nissan may announce whether the car will go into production in the near future.

Japanese buyers focus more on the interiors of cars. "Those customers are more interested in entertainment systems," Nakamura says. The Japanese covet more static exteriors than Euro-



THE URGE CONCEPT CAR from Nissan.

pean buyers because they don't expect very fast vehicles, except in sports cars, he adds.

Nakamura says that's why vehicles with cube designs are popular in Japan. "The customers are interested in space efficiency rather than stylishness," he says.

"Nissan develops designs that produce lower coefficients of drag for the European market because customers there want to drive faster and appreciate cars that are more aerodynamic."

Nissan's designers in the U.S.

and Japan collaborate on such vehicles as the full-size pickup and SUV. Nakamura says that he personally spent a month touring the U.S. to observe how and where these vehicles are used. "I observed customers in Home Depot parking lots," he says. "I also visited owners of full-size trucks in their homes to find out what their frustrations were."

Nakamura says it's important to learn these things at the very beginning of the design process. That kind of research led to his

design of a Titan door that can swing up to 180 degrees. "Don't just look for looks," he says, "for function and shape and those things. Design is not what we're looking for."

That's why Nissan always collaborates with engineering during the design process. "We don't want engineers to say we can't do it," Nakamura says. "We want them to create the shape and come back with new design problems."

## Airetronics introduces patented airbag-like protection technology for motorcycle riders

AIRETRONICS, INC.

Irvine — Airetronics, Inc., a worldwide manufacturer of patented inflatable torso protection vests for motorcycle riders and powersports enthusiasts, has created a revolutionary, yet simple technology to protect riders. Operating like a personal airbag, the Airetronics vest provides increased protection to a rider's chest, back, collarbones and internal organs.

Airetronics, Inc. holds the sole U.S. patent issued for an inflatable vest and designed it to inflate using a simple lanyard-driven triggering system. In the event a rider unexpectedly leaves the bike, lanyards attached to the motorcycle trigger two CO2 cartridges that immediately inflate a polyurethane bladder sys-

The Airetronics vest inflates in an instant, providing a cushion of air surrounding the rider's torso in the event of an accident or fall.

tem contained within the garment. Similar in principle to an automotive airbag, the Airetronics vest inflates in an instant, providing a cushion of air surrounding the rider's torso in the event of an accident or fall.

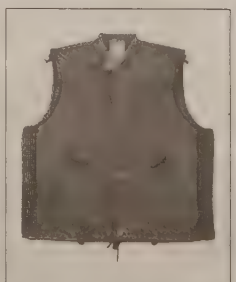
"Our motto — 'Don't Hit the Road Without Us' — really says it all," says J. Todd Brumley, President of Airetronics. "In a market with more than 23 million riders, and a growing number of injury and fatal motorcycle accidents each year, increased safety is the concern for

manufacturers, insurers, and certainly the riders themselves. With nearly 1.2 million motorcycles sold in the U.S. in 2005, many to novice riders, better training, more safety awareness, and most importantly proper protective apparel are the keys to reducing the number of injuries suffered by riders in the pursuit of their hobby."

"I believe every safety conscious rider in the world will want to wear one of our vests," says Brumley. "Riders should be excited about this

revolutionary advance in motorcycle and powersports safety technology that can provide an added layer of on-road protection with a minimum of effort. It's the biggest leap in rider safety since the invention of the safety helmet."

Airetronics' jackets and vests are available in styles that appeal to all segments of the street riding and powersports markets, including a selection of all-weather gear. The protective safety gear is unobtrusive, comfortable and made of the finest quality materials to ensure function and durability. Vests have been designed to be worn alone, or under a rider's traditional jacket or leathers. All jackets and vests come with two CO2 cartridges. Additional replacement cartridges are readily available.



THE AIRETRONICS VEST INFLATES in an instant, providing a cushion of air surrounding the rider's torso in the event of an accident or fall. It is also available in leather, right.

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# Chinese automaker predicts big sales

BY MICHELLE KREBS  
MOTOR MATTERS

DETROIT — Geely Automobile Co. made history at the 2006 North American International Auto Show as the first Chinese automaker to exhibit at a North American auto show. It could also make an encore appearance in the U.S. as it prepares to sell its first cars in the U.S. and Canada as early as spring 2006.

Could this be the Chinese auto company that first lands in the U.S. market? It's possible. Geely announced GEE-lee appears to be taking a methodical and strategic approach to entering the U.S. market. It also seems to have a realistic understanding of the challenges ahead in contrast to some of the grandiose ambitions we've heard from folks like Yugo and Daewoo. Geely, located in Hangzhou, capital city of Zhejiang province, had been in the U.S. market for about a year before hosting an exhibit in Detroit's Cobo Center during the auto show. It had a dozen cars in the U.S. market, including a car with a 1.8-liter engine and emissions ratings that John Harmer, vice president and chief operating officer of Geely-USA, Inc., detailed which the cars passed and which ones they did not. For those tests the cars failed, Geely engineers in Shanghai now know what changes they must make to meet U.S. standards, said Harmer, a soft-spoken Utah attorney who has worked with other international companies, including a Chinese pharmaceutical company, set up shop in America.

The car Geely displayed in Detroit, the CK 7151, is not the model that will go on sale in America. Rather, it is "the father" of the car that will eventually come to the U.S.,

## SHE'S FREEWHEELING

Harmer said.

The CK and the cars that will come to the U.S. have architecture developed under contract for Geely by a Korean automaker, which Harmer did not name. The engine was developed under a similar arrangement with Toyota, Harmer said. The car will start at under \$10,000 and be aimed at young, budget-conscious families.

Geely Chairman Shufu Li announced at the company's jam-packed press conference in Detroit: "Our goal is to present to the American people another choice for the family sedan, a vehicle that possesses the highest quality but is available at the lowest price."

To ensure quality, the first batch of cars that are redesigned and re-engineered to meet American safety and emissions standards will be exported to Puerto Rico, where Geely's U.S. distributor is based. About 2,000 are expected to be sold there. Buyers will bring their cars in monthly for the first six months for inspection and personal interviews to ensure quality and customer satisfaction, Harmer said. "Then, and only then, will we bring them to the U.S.," he added.

At that point, Geely will appoint U.S. and Canadian dealers. They will be existing dealers, dozens of whom, including large mega-dealers, have already talked with Geely about their interest in representing the Chinese automaker. "There's no shortage of interest from dealers," said Harmer.

Harmer said Geely forecasts it will sell 25,000 cars in its first year in the U.S. By the fifth year, Geely expects to sell 100,000 vehicles annually.

Geely, which in Chinese means

"I am lucky," is a relatively young company. It was founded in 1986 and is still chaired by Li Shufu, who according to a video shown at Geely's press conference, is a rags to riches success story. The son of a peasant farmer, Li's family never earned more than \$800 a year, but the young dreamer made model cars out of mud as a child.

The company Li founded in 1986 initially made refrigerators and then motorcycle parts, not cars. With the acquisition of a minivan maker, Geely became the first private Chinese enterprise to produce motor vehicles.

The company has ambitious aspirations for international expansion and is now listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange. It began exporting its vehicles in 2003 and in increasingly larger numbers to the Middle East, South and Central America and Africa. The company says it has established extensive trading relationships with more than 50 countries and areas including the U.S., Europe, Russia and southeast Asia.

In its home market, Geely is an also-ran player, said an editor of a Chinese publication attending the Detroit press conference. He said Geely is not popular in the sophisticated, urban markets of Beijing and Shanghai, as it doesn't have the prestige of other nameplates, including foreign brands. Instead, it is sold in rural areas where low price matters more than prestige and quality.

Chinese cars eventually will be sold in the U.S. Those who poo-poo the notion probably were the same ones who thought the Japanese and the South Koreans would never cut it here either.

To reach Michelle Krebs, send e-mail to [michkrebs@aol.com](mailto:michkrebs@aol.com).



AUTOMOTIVE PRESS GATHERS around Chinese carmaker Geely display at Cobo Center in Detroit during the recent North American International Auto Show.

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Small, not cheap: The top-

rated small cars don't have to feel cheap. The Honda Civic, Mazda3, Toyota Prius, Toyota Corolla and Volkswagen Jetta all offer solid interiors that feel more like an upscale car, according to Consumer Reports magazine. The Civic and Corolla get the highest ratings for their superior crash-test scores. The Jetta also has impressive crash-test results, but it is too new to have reliability data and therefore not CR-recommended.

Change of pace: Ford Motor Co. will be getting out of the mini-

van segment, according to two sources familiar with the plan. The automaker is expected to post a profit for the year but lose money in North America. Last year, Ford Freestar sales were down 25 percent from 2004, and Mercury Monterey sales were off 53 percent. "We have to pick and choose where we want to compete," says Mark Fields, Ford's executive vice president and president of the Americas. "The idea you have to be in all the segments, that's an old way of thinking." Source: USA Today.

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# A rise in female motorcycle riders drives industry to change

BY MELANIE D. SCOTT  
DETROIT FREE PRESS

DETROIT — In 2004, Sandy Zakosky decided to get back into the motorcycle thing after giving it up more than 20 years before.

"I rode as a kid because I couldn't afford a car and I liked it," said Zakosky, 57, of Brighton, Mich. "Now that the kids are out of the house and out of college, I decided to do it again."

According to industry watchers, more and more women like Zakosky are falling in love with motorcycles. An estimated 6.6 million motorcycle owners lived in the United States in 2003, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council, based in Irvine.

And about 635,000 of those are women. The number of female riders rose 36 percent from 467,400 in 1998.

Several vendors and manufac-

turers at a recent motorcycle show in Novi, Mich., featured products aimed toward women. Women can buy bikes built to accommodate them.

Bonnie Strawser, organizer of Femmoto.com, a women's track-day organization based in Toledo, Ohio, has been riding motorcycles for more than 20 years. The organization sponsors more than 100 one-day track events nationwide for women, who get to hone their riding skills and learn about gear crafted specifically for them.

"I'm ecstatic about the changes I've seen," Strawser said. "There are so many motorcycles out there that are made for women."

Dale Durham, 49, visited the Novi show with his wife, Judith Durham, 48. The Sterling Heights, Mich., couple own Honda Gold Wings and have been riding together for about four years. They

go to the motorcycle show to see a variety of brands and the latest and greatest technology and options, Dale Durham said.

Their favorites this year? "The air bag on the Honda Gold Wing was interesting, something different," said Durham, who said he wasn't aware motorcycles could have air bags before the show. "Also the new GPS option on the Honda Gold Wing."

Durham said riding with his wife is part of the charm.

Local dealers say almost half the motorcycles sold last year were purchased by women.

"We sold probably 45 to 50 units to women," said Russ Gillum, a salesman at Olson Power Sports in Detroit. "We sell 160 motorcycles a year."

Many of the women buying motorcycles have been at it a while, Gillum said. "I think it's great.

Women want to have a good time as much as we do," he said.

Strawser, who is 5 feet, 2 inches tall and 115 pounds, appreciates the models made specifically for women's smaller size.

"Women don't have the upper-body strength like men do, so we need something else and it's turning around. There are bikes that are lower to the ground ... with narrower seats and more room," she said.

Strawser would not give her age, but 2003 statistics show the median age for a female motorcyclist was 42. She said she likes that the industry caters more to women now.

"When I began riding, it was discouraging. There wasn't a broad market for women," she said.

Ty van Hooydonk, director of product communications for the Irvine, Calif.-based Discover Today's Motorcycling, said the in-

dustry has grown, in part, because women make up more than 50 percent of the population.

"There has also been more marketing and more apparel geared toward women. You can't look at something on TV, in a movie or an advertisement without seeing a motorcycle," he said.

Zakosky, a nuclear medicine technician, owns a Harley-Davidson Sportster. She likes the sound. "I feel much more comfortable about riding, and people are more aware of it now."

## By the numbers

■ Number of people in the United States who say they have operated a motorcycle, according to the 2003 Motorcycle Industry Council Owner Survey: 23.5 million.

■ Number of women surveyed who say they have operated a motorcycle, according to the 2003

Motorcycle Industry Council Owner Survey: 4.3 million.

■ Number of women who say they owned a motorcycle in 2003: 635,000.

■ Number of women who said they owned a motorcycle in 1998: 467,000.

■ Median age of female motorcyclist in 2003: 42.

■ Median age of female motorcyclist in 1998: 38.

■ Percentage of female cyclists who are married: 60 percent.

■ Percentage of female cyclists who have college or post-graduate degrees: 50 percent.

■ Percentage of female cyclists who are in a professional or technical field: 38 percent.

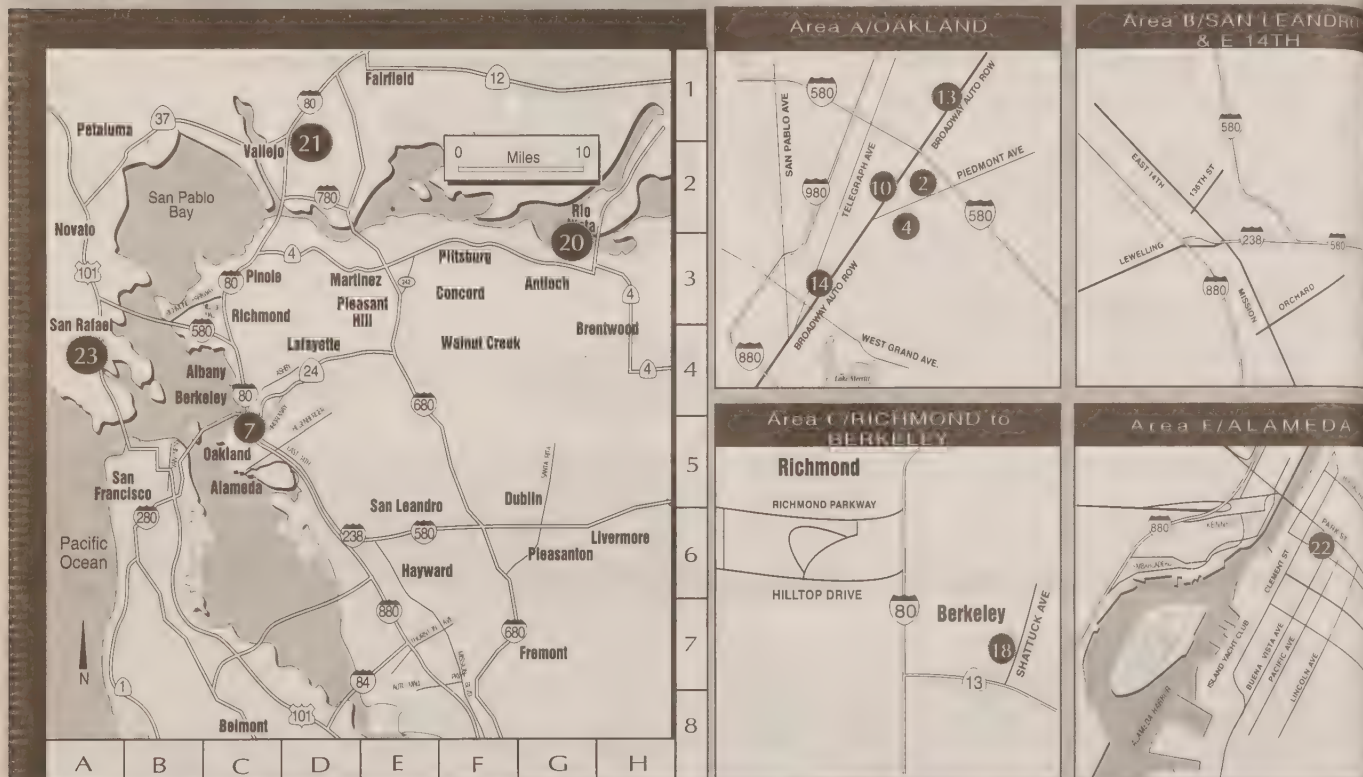
— Source: Motorcycle Industry Council.  
Staff writer Peggy Wonnecki contributed to this report.

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The Landing at Jack London	Oakland	(866) 891-6698	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/thelandingatjacklondon">www.apartments.com/thelandingatjacklondon</a>	1330 - 2395
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17 Mile Drive Village	Pacific Grove	(866) 288-0115	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/17miledrivevillage">www.apartments.com/17miledrivevillage</a>	1850 - 1995
Park Central	Petaluma	(866) 567-4424	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/parkcentralca">www.apartments.com/parkcentralca</a>	1220 - 1830
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Cornerstone Apartments	Pittsburg	(866) 226-8184	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/spcornerstone">www.apartments.com/spcornerstone</a>	950 - 1250
Lincoln Green Apartments	Pleasant Hill	(866) 420-5886	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/lincolngreenca">www.apartments.com/lincolngreenca</a>	775 - 1850
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Camelback North Apts	Pleasant Hill	(800) 310-5365	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/camelbacknorth">www.apartments.com/camelbacknorth</a>	950 - 1550
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Gold Ridge Apt Homes	Sacramento	(866) 324-9418	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/goldridgeca">www.apartments.com/goldridgeca</a>	765 - 905
College Oak Apartments	Sacramento	(800) 486-5017	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/college-oaks">www.apartments.com/college-oaks</a>	650 - 775
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# HOME AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASST**  
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**Web ID CC0121703239**

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We offer comprehensive benefits package including 401k and pension plan. Please send resume to:  
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To hear a recorded message about this listing, call our **Employment Hotline, (925) 313-3552**. You may also visit our website at [www.shellmartinezrefinery.com](http://www.shellmartinezrefinery.com).



EOE



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

## NURSING OPPORTUNITIES

### MARTINEZ/CREC

- Restorative Care CNS
- Geriatric/Psychiatric CNS
- Off Tour Supervisor
- Palliative/Respite Care
- Neuro Rehab
- Sub-Acute

### MARTINEZ/OPC

- Ambulatory Surgery
- Urgent Care

### FAIRFIELD

- Hemodialysis
- Quality Manager -
- Position may be filled in Fairfield or Sacramento - Relocation Incentive

### LVN

### MARTINEZ/CREC

- Neuro Rehab

### OAKLAND

- Primary Care Clinic

\*MARTINEZ/CREC AND OAKLAND

SIGN-ON INCENTIVES

RNs - \$7,500

LVNs - \$5,000

### BENEFITS

- 26 Days Vacation/yr (RN)
- 13 Days Vacation/yr (LVN)
- 10 paid Federal Holidays
- Choice of Health Insurance Coverage
- Life Insurance Coverage
- 13 Sick Days/yr
- Education Debt Reduction Program
- Tuition Support/Reimbursement Programs
- 10% Shift/25% Weekend Differential
- Federal Employee Retirement System

## OFFICE OF NURSE RECRUITMENT

Diane Pawloski, BSN, MS, Nurse Recruiter • VA Northern California HCS  
10535 Hospital Way, Mather, CA 95655

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## Employment

### Real Estate Sales

#### Brilliant

High Aspirations? #1 Industry leader seeks high six figure motivated, career-minded professionals. Due to phenomenal success we are expanding our sales force. \$50,000 in inventory. Beautiful beach and golf community. Let's discuss your goals.

Call 1-800-221-1144 Ask for Steve Lawrence or fax to 925-284-6505 RE License required. Not a time share.

### REAL ESTATE SALES

WWW.SOLICIT.COM

ALL AGENTS 90/10 Comm. splits that quickly go to 100%! Ask about our revenue share/early retirement plan. Part Timers OK. R.E. Specialists 925-728-8153

CLASSIFIED QUICK & EASY

## Employment

### REAL ESTATE SALES

#### FREE TRAINING

Quick Licensing, fee reimbursement & FREE Training for lic. agent. Pos. avail. Ke- ren. Mon-Fri. 10am-4pm. email: school@pruerealty.com 1-800-499-8861 \*At participating offices

**RECESSIONIST** Only 2 pos. avail. Need lic. Real Estate, prof. & loan act. High commis. gnt. loc. No desk fees. Will train. Fam. prop. 925-930-6992 fax 930-9433 Web id CC01241697334

### RECEPTIONIST/Dispatch

Customer service, phones, office work, dispatch backup. Salary \$11-13/hr. Fax resume 925-432-0324

CLASSIFIED QUICK & EASY

## Employment

### RECEPTIONIST

4 days/wk. Sat & Sun 9-5pm. Mon & Tues. 8:30-5:30pm week ends a must Busy ofc needs help! Comput- er skills, busy phones & gmn. office. Call Coldwell Banker Coon & McCreary Realtors 925-754-7400 or send resume 925-754-9610

### RECEPTIONIST for Auto

Body shop. Some Oic. exp. Answer phones. POSITION FILLED

**RECEPTIONIST F/T** for real estate ofc. in Brentwood. Windows & Microsoft Oic. Fax res. 925-513-4330 or anthony@equat.com Web id CC01231896190

**RECEPTIONIST** Looking for a motivated, very organized, detail oriented person for optometric ofc. F/T. Fax 925-866-2021. Web id CC01231896190

### When You GOTTA FIND IT NOW! Check The CLASSIFIEDS!

WHEN YOU GOTTA FIND IT NOW CHECK THE CLASSIFIEDS

## Employment

### RECEPTIONIST

Team player to manage our front desk. Answer hvy. incoming phs., variety of ofc. tasks. Gd. commun. & computer skills a must. 401k bnfts. Resume w/cover letter incl. sal. reqs. to P.O. Box 4871, W.C. CA 94596

### RECREATION/GYMNAS

TIC instruc. needed for mobile gymnastic co. Walnut Creek. PT-Fri. \$12/hr. med. bnfts. Training. 800-318-6475 Web id CC01231896190

**RECRUITER** Little of Concord Entry Level. No exp req. Please send res TODAY aspires@itlha.com

**When You GOTTA FIND IT NOW! Check The CLASSIFIEDS!**

When You GOTTA FIND IT NOW CHECK THE CLASSIFIEDS

## JOIN US AT THE JO-ANN STORES JOB FAIR!

We are looking for enthusiastic, motivated individuals to share in our success at our new Superstore in Concord! We have immediate opportunities for creative individuals looking for a place where energy and inspiration can drive both a local store business and a major organization. Jo-Ann offers a dynamic environment for growth and advancement.

Interview with us during the job fair on: Monday, 1/30/06 (9am-6pm) and Tuesday, 1/31/06 (9am-6pm) Location: Jo-Ann Stores, 1675 Willow Pass Road, Concord, CA 94520

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## Employment

### Recycle/Courier

The Contra Costa Times has an excellent opportunity for a Part-Time Recycle/Courier position. Hours are 8:00am - 9:00am M-F (32 hours). Loading recycling bins on truck for daily removal. Maintain clean and organized storage areas. Pick up in-house recycling from all departments. Serve as a back up for couriers. Must be forklift certified. Person needs to be organized, good reading & math skills, ability to read a map & follow directions. Must have excellent driving skills and knowledge of the Contra Costa County and Bay Area. Must be service oriented and a team player. Lift large bundles up to 50 pounds. Must have valid Driver's License and Insurance. Contra Costa Newspapers has an excellent benefits package including health plan, 401k, sick leave, pension & 401k.

### Options for immediate consideration:

• Will out application at our Walnut Creek location

• Mail your resume to HumanResources

• Fax your resume to (925) 977-8444

• Email your resume to: jobs@ccn.com

Contra Costa Newspapers

Attn: Human Resources

Job #MTC/Recycle

2640 Shadelands Rd

Walnut Creek, CA 94598

EOE

CONTRA COSTA NEWSPAPERS

Refinery Technician Trainees

Valero

RECRUITMENT/Immediate Opening

F/T Wed-Sun 8-5

Apply at 2477 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord or fax res: 925-687-3247

Web id CC01241697334

RESTAURANT

Burger King East Bay

Asst Mgr/Crew need

ed AM/PM. Fax res/letter to 415-925-4202

Web id CC01241697334

RESTAURANT

Bussier

Bar/Entert. Serv. PT. Fax 510-337-0333

Alameda Apply 2337 Blanding Av

RESTAURANT/Cafeteria

Pre Cook & Server

Call Tom 650-975-9078

Web id CC01241697334

RESTAURANT COOK

F/T PT 1265 Amador Valley Blvd

COMPET SKILL 925-928-4731

RESTAURANT

Loard's Ice Cream of Alameda

Store Mgr. F/T Apply in person 2005 Alameda Plaza Shopping Center 925-944-0469

Web id CC01241697334

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Employment

**COMMUNITY SALES DIRECTOR**  
Atria Senior Living Group, national, an outstanding opportunity for an experienced sales professional to market our assisted living communities in the local market. The ideal candidate will have 2-5 years outside sales experience in a health care related field. Please send resume to: shannon.prenzel@atriaseniorliving.com or fax to: 502-244-7521. EOE.

**COMMUNITY SALES DIRECTOR**  
Outside sales position needed at Valley View Lodge in Walnut Creek. Three years' experience in related field. Great pay + bonus. Please send resume to: recruiter@valleyviewlodge.com or fax to: 510-894-1363. EOE.

**SALES CONSULTANT**  
Commercial Sales Rep. Wanted. Extensive knowledge of the area, access control, CCTV, Pay based on sales. Please call: 925-277-0122 Attn: Steve.

**Sales/Client Service**  
Leading telephone company seeking sales reps with excellent communication skills to manage account base. Fax resume to: 925-277-0122 or email: jobs@valleyviewlodge.com Web ID C0121972073

**SALES/DESIGN**  
EARN \$25K-50K/Month. Work Close to home. No cold calling. No commission. Please call: 925-277-0122 Attn: Steve.

**SALES/DESIGN**  
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Employment

SALES MGRS & SALES PEOPLE

**Bassett Furniture Direct**  
New Stores... Pleasant... Opportunity! Bassett Furniture Direct is the fastest growing furniture retailer in the country. You can sell or manage a top notch crew! Wanted: dynamic leaders who can manage, motivate, and sell. With a competitive, team-oriented sales people also needed. Competitive Salary & Bonus. Great vacation, 401. Savings E-mail resume to: resumes@bassettfurniture.com or fax 925-560-9889

**Bassett FURNITURE DIRECT**  
SALES-OUTSIDE Looking for sales professionals to sell the real estate community. Base + comm + bnfts. Delta HomeGroup.com Web ID C0121970672

**SALES/OUTSIDE**  
Sales & appt. knowledge. Prep. Call 510-436-0658 Web ID C0121969917

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Sales & appt. knowledge. Prep. Call 510-436-0658 Web ID C0121969917

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Sales & appt. knowledge. Prep. Call 510-436-0658 Web ID C0121969917

Employment

SECURITY

**SECURITY**  
PT & FT. 12 hr. shift. 408-987-1500. 925-8955 Web ID C0121970672

**TELEMARKETER**  
Comp. 100% FTE. Pay-bonus 925-783-2071 Web ID C0121970672

**TELEMARKETER**  
Sales Rep. Exp. in Great pay/bonus. Will train. 925-683-9057

**THERAPY**  
Physical Therapist - PT & P. Per Diem

**Physical Therapists - PT & P. Per Diem**

**Apply online:** www.homecare.com or fax 925-683-9057

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TECHNICIAN

**TECHNICIAN**  
12 hr. shift. 408-987-1500. 925-8955 Web ID C0121970672

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**THERAPY**  
Physical Therapist - PT & P. Per Diem

**Physical Therapists - PT & P. Per Diem**

**Apply online:** www.homecare.com or fax 925-683-9057

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Comp. 100% FTE. Pay-bonus 925-783-2071 Web ID C0121970672

Employment

WAREHOUSE

**WAREHOUSE**  
PT & FT. 12 hr. shift. 408-987-1500. 925-8955 Web ID C0121970672

**TELEMARKETER**  
Comp. 100% FTE. Pay-bonus 925-783-2071 Web ID C0121970672

**TELEMARKETER**  
Sales Rep. Exp. in Great pay/bonus. Will train. 925-683-9057

**THERAPY**  
Physical Therapist - PT & P. Per Diem

**Physical Therapists - PT & P. Per Diem**

**Apply online:** www.homecare.com or fax 925-683-9057

**TELEMARKETER**  
Comp. 100% FTE. Pay-bonus 925-783-2071 Web ID C0121970672

Transportation

Cars, trucks, motorcycles

**Cars, trucks, motorcycles**  
Selling, buying, leasing, financing. 925-683-9057

**WELDERS**  
Certified field installers, metal person, structure, misc. steel, mlt. 5yrs. 925-233-1275 Fax 925-100-9233-1040

**WINE-LABEL-PRINTER**  
Pre-Press w/label. 925-233-1275 Fax 925-100-9233-1040

**WINE-LABEL-PRINTER**  
Pre-Press w/label. 925-233-1275 Fax 925-100-9233-1040

Motorhomes

Trailers

**Trailers**  
113,989 & up. 925-683-9057

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Vans

Trucks

**Vans**  
Ford 1997 Windstar LX w/air, clean. 925-683-9057

**Trucks**  
Dodge 1997 1500 Ram. 925-683-9057

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hthr. seats,  
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# Lifestyle

A publication of Hills Newspapers

Friday, February 3, 2006

Advertising Supplement

say

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## The right gift might be right around the corner

Feb. 14 fast approaching, and the holidays only a few weeks away. Some may be feeling overwhelmed when it comes to choosing just the right gift for someone. Here are some ideas for local retailers which your imagination afflame. They are all nearby, getting a present is not nearly as difficult as it might have been.

### Meditrina World Healing

For Meditrina World Healing, with your male and make Valentine's Day one of pleasure. Valentine's Day includes: select a massage for a Couple's Retreat which includes champagne, chocolate-covered strawberries and a massage oil customized with aromatherapy blends.

It's time for a getaway from your daily responsibilities. Select from a variety of spa packages, including a massage/revitalization foot and a three-and-a-half-hour for a Day package with body treatments, including. To introduce people to the services of a full-service spa, Jean Rashleger is curating "Enhancements" including a massage/revitalization foot, a foot scrub or massage, a Japanese bath soak, hand

treatments, leg therapy or muscle release gel treatment. These can also be enjoyed in conjunction with one of the spa's other treatments: massage, stone therapy massage, and even maternity massage. They also offer reiki, Shiatsu and reflexology. Body treatments include wraps and exfoliation with such ingredients as crushed grape seeds or seaweed, all designed to detoxify or exfoliate, and skin care treatments include peeling, hair removal and a variety of facials.

Before and beyond Valentine's Day the spa helps people nourish themselves through a variety of therapies and programs. Rashleger noted that studies show that such treatments positively influence stress, pain, quality of life and chronic conditions. Meditrina offers wellness coaching, stress reduction sessions, and healing touch through Elen DiNucci, M.A., a wellness coach, integrative medicine educator and energy healing practitioner. "Working as a team, we create personalized programs that fit your lifestyle and schedule. Short and long-term goals are set based on your input and on information and resources," according to the Web site.

The spa has many additional services to help people look and feel their best, and are happy to make your appointment.

Meditrina World Healing Spa is at 3923 Piedmont Ave., Oakland,

510-601-7111, open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Lost Canyon Winery

Find a fabulous vintage at Lost Canyon Winery and your Valentine might lose his or her heart to a new favorite wine. The winery, which has been in Oakland since 2000, evolved from a home-wine-making process and concentrates on "seductive" Pinot Noirs and Syrah, two varietals that are favored by many wine connoisseurs.

The owners produce just 2,000 cases a year of each wine. They create six offerings a year, with each produced from a specific vineyard in Sonoma, mostly in the Russian River area. Jack States, co-owner of Lost Canyon Winery, not only provides fine wine, but suggests destinations and foods that enhance the pleasure of sipping his creations.

Places or activities for drinking the wine: in front of a fireplace, or while on a picnic at the ocean — Point Reyes, Gualala, Muir Beach are among his favored spots — or on Mount Diablo. First visit the Lost Canyon Tasting Room and take a tour, then sample, and then select a bottle, or choose from these gift boxes: 2 Lost Canyon vineyard-designated Syrahs for \$80, 3 Lost Canyon vineyard-designated Syrahs, \$120; or 2 Lost Canyon vineyard-designated Pinot Noirs for

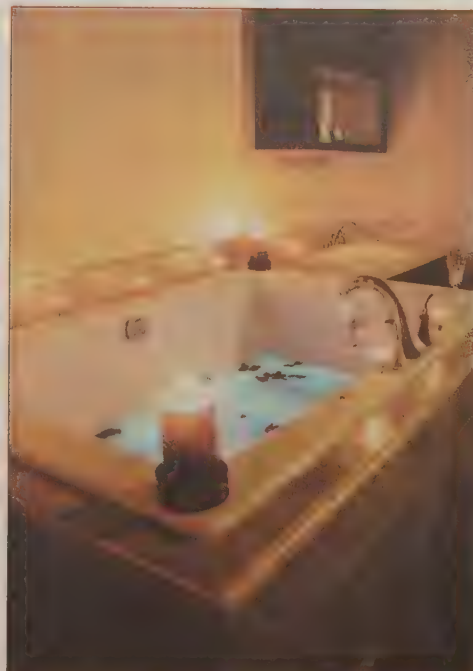
\$90; 3 Lost Canyon vineyard-designated Pinot Noirs in a gift box for \$130; or a one-year membership in the Lost and Found Wine Club (6 bottles), which provides three shipments each of two bottles as well as the opportunity for member dinners and other special events, including private tastings.

To get your taste buds humming, he suggests Syrah from the Alegria vineyard to complement grilled steak, pasta with garlic, tomatoes and basil or Bolognese sauce. With the Trenton Station Syrah, how about steak Poivre or lamb shanks, and braised short ribs or duck pate with the Stage Gulch Syrah. If your lover loves Pinot Noir, serve Peking duck, grilled vegetables, salmon or grilled tuna with the Saralee vineyard-produced Pinot Noir. Enjoy beef Bourguignon, carnitas or pork chops with thyme/cream sauce; and polish off a bottle of Morelli Lane-produced wine with chicken with figs and balsamic vinegar, sage-herbed pork loin or lamb marinated with thyme, marjoram and garlic.

And what better way to show your love than by providing a romantic meal?

Lost Canyon Winery is at 2102 Dennison St., suite A in Oakland, open Saturdays noon to 5 p.m., 510-534-9314.

See CORNER, Page 2



AT MEDITRINA WORLD HEALING SPA, you and your special someone can select a massage for two, or a Couple's Retreat which includes champagne, chocolate-covered strawberries and a massage oil customized with aromatherapy blends.

## Corner

FROM PAGE 1

### Le Bon Bon

Whether you pair your chocolate with red wine or enjoy it as a sensuous treat all on its own, the place to find chocolate is Le Bon Bon in Montclair. Open since 1978, the store has likely fanned the flames of thousands of love affairs with its wide selection of chocolates, including Godiva, Joseph Schmidt, Moonstruck, Scharffenberger and Judy's of Berkeley.

Satin heart boxes of chocolates are a traditional Valentine and a sentimental favorite, bedecked with a ribbon and promising luscious treats inside. Le Bon Bon has a selection from \$6 to \$90.

Or, if your sweetie likes other candy, select from Jelly Belly, licorice, sugar-free chocolate and more. Teapots and cookie jars are also sold here and are great gifts for any occasion.

Owner Chris Triantopoulos said his wife Ugyen, who helps customers select their gifts at the store, also makes and sells Tibetan jewelry, offering yet another gift selection for love-struck shoppers.

Le Bon Bon is open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and is proud of its consistent and high-quality service to all customers. 2050 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, 510-339-2962.

### Whimsical Designs

If you want to say it with flowers, or with hearts, Angela Lombardo of Whimsical Designs has your num-

ber. This custom silk floral and interior design operation is all set for the day of love with a Valentine bucket filled with a heart-shaped pillow, small stuffed bear, brilliant tulips, candles in red boxes and even Valentine socks. She also has clear glass vases decorated with lady bugs or hearts and has filled them with chocolate-covered coffee beans and adorned them with flowers.

For Valentine's Day or any other season, Lombardo offers wreaths, bouquets and other arrangements in all sizes, colors and flower varieties. Her selection of containers is vast, and she has many arrangements already on display to help inspire you or your loved one. She also does in-home consultations, helping people "tie their decor all together" and can advise on colors, lighting, furniture, accent pieces, floral accents and more.

Don't forget about flowers for Easter, Mother's Day, summer and fall, she reminds.

Contact Whimsical Designs at 1020 Pacific Ave., Alameda, 510-637-9018.

### O'Spa

If the thought of a facial or relaxing massage makes your Valentine sigh with contentment, consider a couples massage package or a his-and-her facials. This spa, now in its third year in Alameda, is a salon and spa offering hair treatments and services, plus manicures, pedicures, body wraps, facials and massages.

With a creamy colored decor warmed by a fireplace, the atmosphere is restful and restorative. The staff also do reiki work. Noted as-

sistant manager, Chris Updyke, they are currently offering a green coffee body wrap to help reduce cellulite and also offer IPL (intense pulse light) facials and microcurrent treatments to firm up facial muscles for a more youthful look.

Not sure what service would most delight your loved one? Select from packages or pick up a gift certificate. Treatment packages over \$200 include a free lunch, and the salon also handles small groups for a special day or occasion.

O'Spa is at 2525 Santa Clara Ave. in Alameda, 510-522-0772.

### Celebrations by the Bay

Here's a great way to surprise your Valentine: Dinner on the Bay with dancing, too. Celebrations by the Bay is operated by Greg and Sharon Schuyler and their Alameda-based vessel will be setting sail this year on two Valentine cruises. On Sat., Feb. 11, the boat sails at 8 p.m. and on Tuesday, Feb. 14, the sailing time is 6:30 p.m.

The three-hour cruises include a buffet dinner, live music and a dessert buffet. While the 65-foot vessel can accommodate over 100, the couple are limiting the sailings to 60 per cruise to give the couples space for tables-for-two and for dancing. There's a full bar, and the vessel is outfitted in a riverboat or paddlewheeler theme.

The Schuylers have owned and operated the vessel for five years in Alameda.

Cost is \$65 per person on Feb. 11, \$55 per person on Feb. 14. Call 510-499-4229 for reserved seating and directions to the vessel. Boarding is 30 minutes before sailing.

## Send a celebrity kiss this Valentine's

OUTCAST COMMUNICATIONS

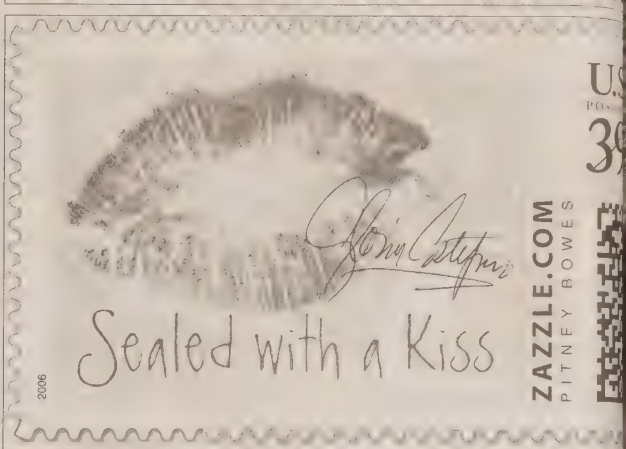
For Valentine's Day this year, get your very own kiss from the likes of Carrie Underwood, Benji and Gene Simmons. Don't pucker up just yet — these kisses will come in the form of real postage stamps, with proceeds going to the Humane Society of the United States.

What better way to send off cards then with the kiss print of your

favorite celebrity on the stamp — send your friends a taste of the unattainable this year all while supporting charity. By donating their lip prints, these celebrities are acknowledging the important role the Humane Society plays in animal welfare and you can too by purchasing these stamps. Celebrity kiss prints on stamps will be available for sale on [www.zazzle.com](http://www.zazzle.com) from

this week through Feb. 14. Celebrity lip prints include Rachel Bilson, Amy Poehler, Cho, Carrie Underwood, Ross, Jason Mraz, Wyclef, Gloria Estefan, Kimmons, Michael Solomon White, Gene Simmons and Benji.

To order or for more visit [www.zazzle.com](http://www.zazzle.com).



CELEBRITIES LEND THEIR LIPS to benefit the Humane Society of the United States. Show Rachel Bilson, top, and Gloria Estefan, bottom.

## Valentine gift alternatives to chocolate

THE NIBBLE

NEW YORK — Not everyone wants a big box of chocolate for Valentine's Day. Some people don't like it. Some people can't eat it. Some people might like it, but they've worked too hard on their diets to yield to the temptation. And some people just prefer savory to sweet. Karen Hochman, editorial director of The Nibble (online at [TheNibble.com](http://TheNibble.com)) suggests scrumptious alternatives for loved ones, gal pals, or anyone who has a piece of your heart.

### Amazing sweets that aren't chocolate candy

We love chocolate, but we understand that a box of it can be too much of a good thing. Here are just as wonderful alternatives.

■ **Salt Caramels from Recchiuti Confections:** Michael Recchiuti's smoky, seductive caramel is a work of confectionary art...enrobed lightly in chocolate and topped with sea salt. They are so good, we just might prefer them to chocolate ourselves.

■ **Cocoa Nuts Framboise Pralines:** Traditional French pralines are whole almonds, roasted and caramelized on the stovetop, dipped in raspberry purée and dusted in cocoa. Handmade by a Cordon Bleu-trained chef, they are little bites of heaven! If your Valentine doesn't like raspberries, there are six other flavors, including Café (coffee), Épices (spice), Orange, Noir (dark chocolate), and Azteque (Spicy Aztec).

■ **His Portrait in Cookies:** Rolling Pin Productions will create cookies that look like your loved one, your dog, your house...not the photo cookies that you may have seen on the party circuit, but hand-designed and decorated. He/she/it never tasted so sweet.

■ **Elegant Cheesecakes:** A raspberry swirl cheesecake that

looks like a gorgeous gift box with ribbons, bows, and roses...a bittersweet chocolate sour cream cake "box" that opens to reveal a milk chocolate truffle heart...are these works of art masquerading as cakes, or cakes that are art? Either way, they taste as good as they look, and are a gift that will be remembered for years.

■ **Enstrom's Sugar-Free Almond Toffee:** People who can't have sugar but still demand the best, can have it from Enstrom's. The makers of what we think is the best classic toffee in America, also make a sugar-free version with maltitol that tastes almost identical to the original.

■ **Edible Arrangements:** Send "flowers" and sweets at the same time with Edible Arrangements. Fresh fruits—melon, pineapple, berries, grapes—are sculpted and arranged to look like a basket of flowers, eliciting a "wow" from everyone who receives one. We regularly receive boxes of the finest chocolates in the world, but nothing makes us happier than a healthy, gorgeous Edible Arrangement.

### Savory delights

For those who just don't like sweets, here are terrific treats that make great gifts—and they have absolutely no sugar.

■ **Caviar For A Year:** If money is no object, give your loved one a monthly caviar delivery that lets him or her taste a different fine caviar each month. Each monthly shipment from Caviar Etc. includes blini, crème fraîche and a mother of pearl spoon. Equally wonderful and more affordable, for \$58.50, is a one-time, 6.5 ounce jar of Truffle Tiger Eye Caviar from Tsar Nicolaï.

■ **David Burke Gourmet Pops:** From celebrity chef David Burke, these sexy pops — gourmet food on lollipop sticks—come in goat cheese, smoked salmon, and foie

gras. They make a romantic grazing dinner, or appetizers with champagne before heading out to your favorite restaurant. (They arrive frozen and defrost in 2-1/2 hours.)

■ **Heart-Shaped Ravioli:** Ravioli is a food of love — yes, everybody loves it. It's incredibly easy to make, so it doesn't distract you from your loved one. Alfonso Gourmet Pasta makes red and white ravioli hearts in both cheese and lobster.

■ **Mascarpone Is for Lovers:** That's the name of this gift from The Mozzarella Company, one of America's best cheesemakers. It's a half-pound pecan praline mascarpone torta that arrives on a red Valentine doily on a white ceramic plate, with a beautiful cheese knife. It's a perfect dessert — all you do is supply the strawberries, cookies, champagne — and love.

### Calorie-free gifts for dieters

■ **Bling H2O Spring Water:** Designed for the stars, these frosted glass bottles of mineral water, studded with Swarovski crystals, will make any woman feel like a star herself. The limited-edition bottles are 750 ml, the size of wine bottles, and make drinking those eight glasses a day a pleasure. How many fashion accessories are edible and this healthy?

■ **Serendipitea Chocolate Teas:** This tea company makes several varieties that are chocolate-tinged and delicious, not gimmicky. They were an oasis at The Chocolate Show in New York City in November—we enjoyed them as much as the luxury chocolates.

Also check The Nibble's February issue, online at [TheNibble.com](http://TheNibble.com) Feb. 1, for the best chocolate gifts and the most romantic wines.

The Nibble, Great Finds For Foodies, is an online magazine about specialty foods and the gourmet life. Visit [www.TheNibble.com](http://www.TheNibble.com).

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Sexy is an alluring confident scent which contains top notes of clover, apple blossom and Clementine. It features an elegant black brush which is essential for a night on the town. Sweet is a warm subtle scent which contains top notes of mandarin, grapefruit and cucumber water and is features an attractive pink brush.

With just a twist of the brush, dust the body powder on arms, shoulders or décolletage and enjoy silky smooth and shimmering skin. When the powder is finished, the brush applicator can be refilled with any favorite body powder. And, it is affordably priced with a suggested

retail price of \$12.99! New All that Glitters Scented Shimmering Body Powder is available at Wal-Mart stores nationwide. For additional information visit [www.naterra.com](http://www.naterra.com).



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# ay 'I love you' with deliciously easy handmade treats for Valentine's Day

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE  
Valentine's Day, show how much you love and care with handmade treats. Put a smile on someone's face with a heart (your own or make your friends and family a little happier with delicious chocolate confections you've made in your kitchen. They look wonderful, and they're easy to make — when you use M&M's or dark chocolate dipping sauce, versatile candy-coated chocolates.

**X's and O's** (easy-to-make for everyone on your Valentine's Day). Make miniature "love dot" cakes even more special with indulgent chocolate. Whip up everything from "poked-a-dot" cakes to easy fondue — just dip, soak or pop everything into marshmallows, delicious, melted chocolate. Here are delicious ways to melt them for Valentine's Day.

**FONDUE OF YOU**  
Dip. Soak. Pop. Everyone has their own fondue style — here's chocolate fun for Valentine's Day. Dip Dove Brand Dark Chocolate Minis for Valentine's Day. Dip heavy cream, fresh and dried fruits like apple, strawberries, marshmallows, or even chocolate-covered marshmallows. Dip bought cookies in microwave-safe bowl,

combine chocolate hearts, candy bar minis and heavy cream. Heat in microwave 3 to 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Pour warm chocolate mixture into bowl surrounded with fruits, marshmallows and cookies. Can be made in advance, and re-heated when ready to serve! Makes 1 fondue.  
*Tip: For silky smooth chocolate dipping sauce, substitute 1 bag Promises Dark Chocolates for Milky Way Minis for Valentine's Day.*

**LOVE DOTS**  
A little love goes a long way — and these itty-bitty bites are no exception. 1 bag Dove Brand Dark or Milk Chocolate Hearts 1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter 1/2 cup sugar 1 egg 1-1/3 cups all-purpose flour 2 cups pecans, finely chopped, divided (optional) 28 mini paper cupcake liners Mini muffin pans Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Mix in egg, and slowly stir in flour and (if desired) 1 cup chopped pecans. Roll nicely rounded teaspoons of dough into 1-1/4-inch balls; then (if desired) roll balls in remaining pecans. Line mini muffin pans with liners. Place 1 ball into each cup, and bake until golden (about 12 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean). Remove from oven, and place 1 chocolate heart firmly on top of each ball. Return to oven 3 minutes, remove, and let cool completely.

Makes 28 mini muffins.  
**POKE-A-DOT HEART CAKE**  
This sweet cake makes it easy to have a heart-to-heart with those you love! 1 bag M&M's Brand Milk Chocolate Candies for Valentine's Day 2 16-ounce boxes pound cake mix\* 2 16-ounce cans vanilla frosting, divided Red food coloring 1 9 x 13-inch pan Resealable plastic bag Printable template (at [www.brightideas.com/valentines/po\\_p\\_1371.shtml](http://www.brightideas.com/valentines/po_p_1371.shtml)) Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour 9 x 13-inch pan. Prepare both cake mixes according to package directions. Pour batters into prepared baking pan, and bake 45 to 55 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven, transfer to wire rack, and let cool completely. \*For easy cutting, make cake a day before, or place cooled cake in freezer for an hour before cutting. Arrange all three sizes of printed heart templates on cake, and cut out 1 cake of each size. Using red food coloring, tint 1 can vanilla frosting light pink. Spoon 1/2 cup remaining vanilla frosting into resealable plastic bag; set aside. Cover largest and smallest heart cakes with pink frosting; set aside. Cover remaining heart cake with vanilla frosting. Place cakes in freezer 15 minutes before assembling. Place largest heart cake on serving platter. Top in center with remaining heart cakes. Arrange red M&M's on outer edges of each cake.

Snip a corner of resealable plastic bag, and randomly pipe dots of frosting all over cakes. Then, place an M&M on top of dot. Makes 1 cake  
*Tip: If tops of cakes are slightly rounded, trim so they are flat.*

**X'S AND O'S**  
Hand out X's and O's every day of the week with these extra special Valentine's Day cookies! 1 bag M&M's Brand Milk Chocolate Candies for Valentine's Day

1 bag peanut butter or sugar cookie mix (approximately 1 pound, 1.5 ounces) 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour Red and white tube frosting Waxed-paper sheets Printable templates (at [www.brightideas.com/valentines/po\\_p\\_1380.shtml](http://www.brightideas.com/valentines/po_p_1380.shtml)) or alphabet cookie cutters in "X's" and "O's" Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Prepare cookie mix according to package instructions. Stir in flour and mix until blended.

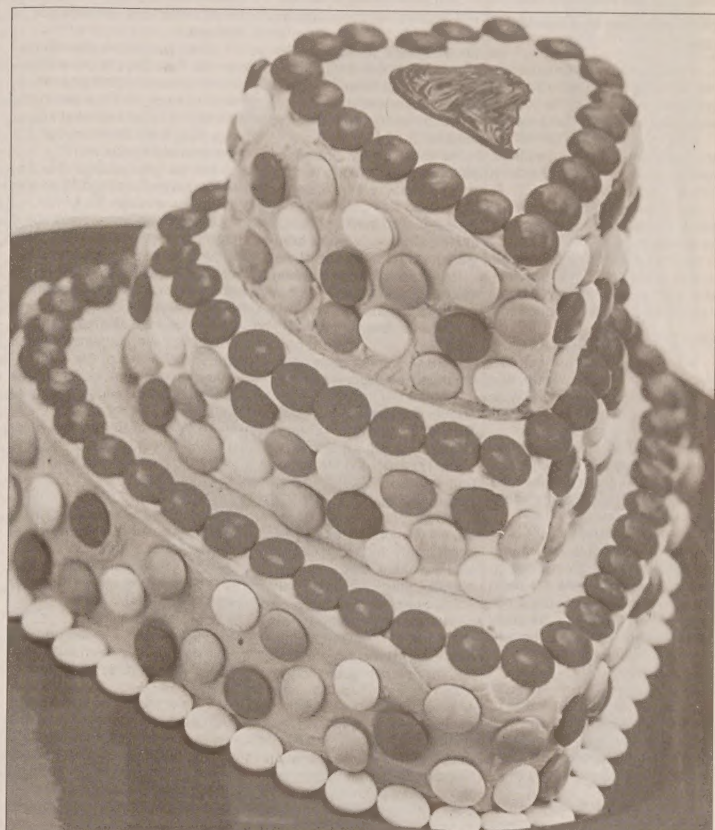
Roll out dough to 1/4-inch thickness between two waxed paper sheets. Using printed templates or cookie cutters, cut out "X's" and "O's". Transfer cutouts to cookie sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes, remove from oven, and let cool completely. Frost cookies' tops with red or white frosting, and then decorate with M&M's. Makes 36 cookies. All materials courtesy of: M&M's Seasonal Brands.



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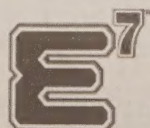
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## A day of self love as a solo on Valentine's

PRWEB

CHICAGO — Chicago author, Cheryl Perlit, offers these creative and inspiring tips that helped her get through five Valentines Days after the loss of her beloved first husband and before she met her wonderful second.

Plan your valentines day as a day of self love with these survival tips:

### Start your day in a special way

- Add vanilla and cinnamon to your coffee grounds before brewing and set the timer so the aroma wakes you up in a wonderful mood.
- Dress in red silk lingerie/boxers under anything you decide to wear. Don't forget a red hat. Men, try a new cologne.

- Go out for breakfast with a friend — have someone wait on you for a change.

- Bring a small gift to someone at work. Leave it on their desk but don't sign it and watch that person try to figure out where it came from.

### Your lunch break

- For lunch, take a brisk walk outside or around your building, say hello and happy Valentines Day to everyone you see. Eat a salad and drink a tall bottle of water.

- Starting after lunch, eat one piece of chocolate (liquor filled if you can get away with it) when the clock strikes on the hour, every hour till 5 p.m.

- At 4 p.m. stand by your desk and do some stretches or jumping jacks to get the blood flowing. Listen to your favorite CD (with headphones or low volume) between 4 and 5 p.m., to put yourself in a great mood for the end of your work day.

### After work

- Buy yourself arm loads of flowers on the way home and decorate your home/apartment with them — in every room. They will be there to make you happy when you return home.

- Meet another single friend for happy hour. Go to a brand new bar/restaurant that you have never been to before.

- Join up with more singles for dinner, dancing or karaoke.

- For women: End your evening in a luxuriously scented bath, slather oil all over your skin, pin your hair up and sleep in a vintage slip.

- For men: Luxuriate in a hot bath or shower with scented body scrub, moisturize all over and sleep in silk boxers.

### Commit to at least one act of random kindness:

- Send someone else flowers or candy anonymously; either a crush or someone you know who is also alone on Valentines Day.

- Buy a dozen roses and hand them out one at a time to various NEW people you meet through the day.

- Invite another single to Happy Hour — you pick up the tab!

Cheryl Perlit is the author of "Soaring Through Setbacks — Rise Above Adversity — Reclaim Your Life" and "Soaring Through Setbacks — Survival Tips Handbook."

## A few tips to help buy the best jewels you can afford

BY GARY ESTWICK  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

AKRON, Ohio — My normal approach to buying diamonds for special occasions is pretty simple: I don't. I'd rather bail out with a cashmere sweater or scented lotions.

Not all guys, though, especially you married ones, can pull this off. So to help you out, I have attempted to learn what I could about diamonds and then map out a diamond-buying strategy.

You owe me big-time.

I started with my dad. He's been married to my mom, Dora, for 32 years. Surely he knew something about diamonds.

But when I asked, he paused for about five seconds.

"Uh, did you ask your mother?"

As it turns out, my dad didn't pick her diamond ring when she upgraded about 17 years ago. All he did was follow her instructions; he even called from the Plaza Mall in New Orleans to make sure he was getting the right ring.

My mom talked about white diamonds and man-made diamonds (cubic zirconia).

"What's the difference?" I asked.

"Those women want (real) diamonds!" she said, laughing.

I might not have known much about diamonds, but I knew Tiffany & Co. was a popular choice.

So I called the Cincinnati location and spoke to market vice president Susanne Halmi.

Halmi told me about the "Four C's" of diamond perfection — cut, color, clarity and carat. These details are the difference between a beautiful small diamond and a not-so-nice big diamond.

Numerous jewelers agree that cut is the most important way to judge a diamond's beauty.

Simply explained, this determines how light reflects off the diamond. If light hits the gem and continues through the bottom, the diamond's too thin. If it hits the middle and makes its way out through one side, the diamond is too deep. But if it hits a middle spot and the light bounces back to your eyes, you've got a good one.

"That's what will give it its brilliance and its fire," Halmi said.

Tiffany & Co. stresses simple yet elegant settings, which Halmi said emphasizes the beauty of the diamond without overpowering the band and diamonds.

The company's No. 1 engagement ring is the traditional six-prong setting. It starts at \$1,900, and the price increases as high as your checkbook allows.

I mentioned that my mother had said some women would accept a pledge of love and a ring out of a bubble gum machine. Average cost: 25 cents.

"Well, that's true," Halmi said. "Really, if you marry someone, it really shouldn't be about the ring. But also think, when you get married, it's a lifelong decision and a diamond lasts forever."

Mary Ball Gorman, president of Henry B. Ball in West Akron, Ohio, showed me a natural, 2 1/3-carat yellow diamond on a platinum setting. The yellow diamond was flanked by two white diamonds.

The total carat weight was more than three carats.

Price: \$25,000.

I thought I heard \$2,500. I asked her to repeat.

Twenty-five thousand dollars, she said.

Deep breaths.

I fled to the Internet. One of the best ways to learn about diamonds is to conduct research online. I found several Web sites such as [www.bluenile.com](http://www.bluenile.com) that allowed me to design a ring and even more that allowed me to browse.

EBay had hundreds of diamonds for sale. I found a three-stone, one-carat princess cut diamond ring, which looked like something I'd be interested in buying. (Get that? Princess cut. It's like a sparkling square.)

But the idea of buying a diamond without seeing it in person made me uneasy.

Something turned me off about buying jewelry on cable television. Why are the announcers so happy? I've never been that happy about going to work, and I often work at home.

It's common, Gorman said, for couples to shop together. It takes the surprise out of the gift, but when you're spending as much as you earn in two months, it's more important to be right.

You can stroll into a jewelry store with your girlfriend/wife, find out what she likes and hold on to that information.

Or just ask.

If your funds don't allow you to spend thousands, you can buy other diamond products such as diamond earrings, pendants and bracelets. Some can be found for less than \$100.

Now we're talking.

It's common, I've learned, for men to buy the diamonds they can afford for now, and upgrade later.

Gorman said one man started with an 1/8-carat and, over the years, moved up to one carat.

The bad news is that nobody could give me a rule of thumb on how much to spend. It really depends on how much you want to spend.

Me? I'm on a strict budget. This Christmas, my mom got diamond earrings.

### Breathe deep, consider this

Here are tips to help guys shop for jewelry during the holidays, care of Gary Estwick:

- Take a friend with you when you shop for that special person. A second opinion can be helpful, especially from someone close to her.

- Pay attention. Most girlfriends/wives give us clues during the holiday season about what they want. Don't be afraid to ask for clarification.

- Avoid sticker shock. Research the market by reading local advertisements or going online before you hit the stores or Web sites.

- The simpler the better. Jewelry is not always about the biggest diamond.

- When shopping for an engagement ring, be prepared to spend one or two months' salary. But spend only what you can afford.

### Tips on buying a diamond

Each diamond should come with a grading report from an independent, reputable institute. The Gemological Institute of America and the International Gemmological Institute are the two best known. (The groups use two different spellings, but both are correct.) These reports will give you the facts and figures on a diamond from a credible source.

They make it easier to compare apples to apples. However, comparing branded diamonds with generic ones is trickier because branded ones are unique to each retailer.

In any case, you'll need to know the Four C's: carat weight, cut, clarity and color.

Start by logging onto the GIA's Web site ([www.gia.edu](http://www.gia.edu)). It has a helpful tutorial and a special site on buying diamonds for Valentine's Day, said Alex Angelle, senior spokesman for the institute.

**Carat weight** is the weight of the diamond. The larger the diamond, the rarer it is.

**Cut** refers to the faceting of the diamond, which brings out the

sparkle, fire and nothing to do with round or square.

**Clarity** refers to the lack of spots and flaws. The greater the better the diamond.

**Color** is the actual diamond. Although diamonds are prized the more yellow or amond, the poorer the value.

Jewelry experts are looking to look at a against white page see the color more.

Source: Alex Angelle, Gemological Institute



MANY JEWELERS AGREE that cut is the most important way to judge a diamond's beauty. It determines how light reflects off the diamond.

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# Flowers to fit any relationship

As an unspoken rule that flowers are an essential gift on Valentine's Day to show how much you care. But many, the pressure of picking the right flowers can ruin the romantic sentiment of the day.

A dozen red roses may be a classic symbol of true love and desire, but if your relationship is new, you may want something less serious and more fun. FTD Master Designer Jeff Corbin and White teamed up to give you tips on picking appropriate flowers for your relationship status going beyond the standard red rose bouquet.

## Update Valentine's Day

First date is exciting and fun, but it can also be nerve-racking and scary. Valentine's Day only adds to the pressure of the planning of the first date. It's easy to make a first impression by bringing flowers. The key is to go bold and not overkill.

Jeff and Keith suggest a large bouquet such as a stargazer for a first date. As the name would suggest, a stargazer has bright petals in the shape of a star surrounded by white. Since the petals are large, it only takes a few to make a beautiful, sexy statement to your date. The scent fades quickly either so your date will be thinking of you after the date is over.

## Relationship Valentine's Day

When called the "honeymoon

period," this stage is characterized by light-hearted good times and endless supplies of laughter. This is your chance to relive the days of your schoolyard crush and go cheesy romantic with the flowers.

Again, keep the flowers simple. Colorful daisies or carnations are fun, or you could do a small mixed bouquet, but stay away from too much greenery and baby's breath. Jeff and Keith suggest combining flowers with a small assortment of gifts like boxes of chocolates, balloons, a stuffed animal or a greeting card. You want to have a range of gifts for this stage of a relationship. Remember, the focus is on having a good time and making your Valentine smile.

## "I love you" Valentine's Day

Okay, so you've been dating for a while and the big "L" word is out of the bag. Likely, you've been through a few bumps in the road together. It is now appropriate to go back to the roses, says Jeff and Keith, but try to look past the traditional red to show your love and appreciation.

Think about the whole presentation of the flowers, meaning pick out an interesting vase and accents to accompany the flowers. For a personal touch, start with roses in your Valentine's favorite color. Then add in other flowers of varying sizes along with floral accents in similar shades. If you don't know exactly what additional flowers or vases would look good with your roses, go to [www.FTD.COM](http://www.FTD.COM) to find your local

FTD florist to ask for suggestions. This is your chance to celebrate your Valentine's personality and style.

## Soulmate Valentine's Day/long forgotten Valentine's Day

If you have been in a serious relationship for years, Valentine's Day may have become just like any other day. Perhaps your Valentine isn't even expecting anything from you. Surprise your Valentine with a unique bouquet, and celebrate the love that has kept you together all this time.

Jeff and Keith suggest this year's hottest trend—deep, orange red roses mixed with Milva roses, which are a brilliant orange color and gradually fade to a golden orange near the edges of the petals. You can add some Protea, which looks like a big pin-cushion, in a complimentary shade or some Hypericum berries, which resemble Christmas holly berries. A rough stoneware or rusted metal vase puts the finishing touch on this exotic bouquet.

Looking for something truly unique? Jeff and Keith suggest a twist on the traditional red rose bouquet by using Black Baccara roses. They aren't black at all. In fact, they are full blooms saturated in a deep burgundy color. Accent your roses in a low deco style vase with some Queen Protea and Safari Sunset Leucadendron, which is an exotic looking plant with earthy hues. The rich, deep colors are the perfect way to say, "I still love you."

# Steps for properly insuring your special Valentine's Day gifts

Valentine's Day is the most romantic time of the year and the popular day for proposals. Although it's hard to put a price on sentimental items, valuables such as diamond rings need to be protected against loss or theft; sometimes your existing insurance may not provide enough coverage. Each year, according to the Department of Justice, consumers spend \$50 billion on jewelry which \$1 billion is lost, stolen or otherwise disappears. To matters worse, the vast majority of these valuable items are uninsured, which means that they can't be adequately replaced.

Many homeowners or renters insurance policies provide only a level of personal property coverage—often in the \$1,000 to \$5,000 range—for items such as jewelry and furs, said Noel Edsall, director of Product Development at MetLife Auto & Home. "That's why items with higher-valued items need to be properly protected," he says. For a greater level of coverage, insurance companies offer Scheduled Personal Property (SPP), an endorsement to provide 100 percent of the "stated value" of valuables, such as jewelry and furs, with no deductible. Most policies stipulate that reimbursement for a loss will not exceed actual cash value of the item, the cost to replace the item, as stated in the policy. Some, however, offer extra peace of mind, by providing coverage on an "agreed basis." This means that, regardless of the actual cost to repair or replace the valuable, the company agrees to pay, in the event of a loss, an amount that has been agreed upon in advance.

Whether an item of jewelry is a gift, or a family heirloom, you can ensure that it's appropriately protected by taking the following steps:

## Insurance steps:

- Have your items appraised. Locate a professional appraiser and get a detailed description and value of the item—in writing. Then, talk to your insurance agent, and have him or her compare this appraisal against your jewelry coverage limits to determine whether you should secure Scheduled Personal Property coverage. Finally, store the appraisal in a safe place with other valuable papers. Even if the value increases over time, it's helpful to have the description in writing.

- Contact your agent or insurance provider whenever you acquire a valuable item. This person can assist you in making certain that this item is covered in the event of a loss.

- "Refresh" appraisals every two or three years. Markets, such as those for diamond and silver, tend to fluctuate. Have items re-ap-

praised, especially those with individual values of more than \$2,500.

- Create an inventory of all your personal possessions. MetLife Auto & Home offers free personal property inventory brochures, in both English and Spanish, which are available by calling 800-638-5433.

Of course, jewelry is probably not the only valuable thing that you own. For information about insuring other major investments, go to [www.lifedvice.com](http://www.lifedvice.com) and select "Major Purchases." The Life Advice site contains a wealth of information that can help you make important decisions on major purchases from a new computer to a new home. Whatever you hold dear and dear to your heart, however, the fact remains: By keeping your most important items adequately protected against the unforeseen, you can help keep romance blooming all year long.



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**ALTHOUGH IT'S HARD** to put a price on sentimental items, valuables such as diamond rings need to be properly insured against loss or theft.

# A special pen and ink for romantic writings

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For centuries handwritten perfumed letters have been exchanged between lovers worldwide. Inspired by the universal language of love, Montblanc has created the ultimate Valentine's Day accessory: "Love Letter" Ink (\$13). This beautiful ruby red colored, (called "sepia") rose scented ink is the most romantic way of expressing one's feelings. Scent is the strongest sense tied to memory, which makes Montblanc's "Love Letter" ink a great step towards the preservation of romance. There is an intimacy in a person's handwriting that can't be achieved through the computer. Let's be honest, how many love letters are written via email?

Writing the perfect love letter is not as difficult as one may think. It involves a few key ingredients, the perfect pen and paper being the most important. Finding inspiration to write a love letter can be as easy as looking in a history book. "I more than love you, I'm not whole without you. You are life itself to me."

When you are gone I'm waiting for you to return so I can start living again." This quote, taken from a love letter Ronald Reagan wrote to his beloved Nancy, kept their relationship fresh before, during and after his presidency.

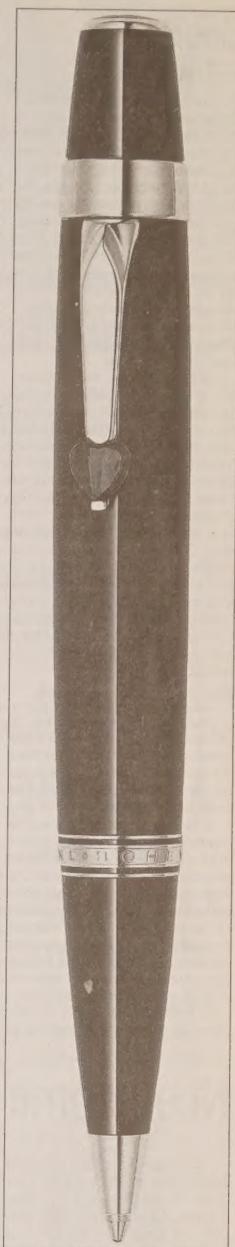
A good pen allows your thoughts to flow from your brain and onto the page in one fluid motion. At a recent Montblanc event Jason Lewis was quoted saying, "I've been known to write the occasional love poem here and there." The Montblanc Je T'aime pen, \$340, features a delicate rose-colored sapphire heart on the clip, and pairs perfectly with the fabulous "Love Letter" ink. Keep in mind that using quality Montblanc paper will ensure that your letters will hold up over time.

Juliet Drouet cooed in a love letter to Victor Hugo, "I need your love as a touchstone of my existence. It is the sun which breathes life into me." Her love letters still exist in libraries and museums world wide, but don't worry a box under the bed will suffice as well.



MONTBLANC

**THE JE T'AIME PEN**, right, features a delicate rose-colored sapphire heart on the clip, and pairs perfectly with the ruby-colored, rose-scented "Love Letter" ink, above.



# Origins and symbols of the day of love

Ever wonder how Valentine's Day originated and how certain symbols became synonymous with this day of love and romance? According to scholars, the origins of Valentine's Day are shrouded in mystery, but there are a few theories that help explain how this celebration came to be.

## Valentine's Day origins

One theory surrounds the Roman Feast of Lupercalia, held on Feb. 15, and an ancient pagan fertility celebration which was held on Feb. 14. The celebration honored Juno, queen of the Roman gods and the goddess of women and marriage. During Roman times, the lives of young boys and girls were strictly separate. However, one of their customs was name drawing. On the eve of the festival of Lupercalia, the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars. Each young man

would draw a girl's name from the jar and would then be partners with the girl he chose for the duration of the festival. Sometimes, the pairing of the children lasted an entire year, and often they would fall in love and later marry.

Another theory is that during the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that Feb. 14 was the beginning of mating season for birds, which supported the idea of having a day for romance in mid-February.

## St. Valentine controversy

According to an online informational resource, Howstuffworks.com, there's also some

controversy regarding St. Valentine, for whom the famous day is named. Archaeologists who unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St. Valentine are not sure if there was one Valentine or more. Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred on February 14—at least two of those in Italy during the 3rd century.

The most popular candidate for St. Valentine was a 3rd-century Roman priest who practiced Christianity and performed secret marriages

See ORIGINS, Page 6

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## Origins

FROM PAGE 5

for young men because he believed single soldiers were more likely to join his army than those with wives and children. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. According to legend, Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting. Before his execution on Feb. 14 in 270 A.D., it is alleged that he wrote a young girl (who visited him during his confinement and who may have been his jailer's daughter) a letter, which he signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still used on cards today.

Early Christians were happier with the idea of a holiday honoring the saint of romantic causes than with one recognizing a pagan festival. In 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius named Feb. 14 in honor of St. Valentine as the patron saint of lovers. In 1969, Pope Paul VI dropped it from the calendar. However, the blend of Roman festival and Christian martyrdom had caught on, and Valentine's Day was here to stay. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is unclear, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and, most important, romantic figure.

### Valentine's Day symbols

Along with Valentine's Day are certain symbols that reflect the meaning of love and romance. Here is a listing of some of those symbols and a brief synopsis of how each one originated:

■ **Heart:** In ancient times, the heart was thought to be the source of all emotions. It later came to be associated most directly with the emotion of love. It's not clear when the heart shape became the symbol for the heart organ. Some scholars speculate that the heart symbol, as we use it to signify romance or love, came from people's early attempts to draw an organ they'd never seen.

■ **Red roses:** These flowers were said to be the favorite of

Venus, the Roman goddess of love. Also, red is a color that signifies strong feelings.

■ **Lace:** This material has long been used to make women's handkerchiefs. Hundreds of years ago, if a woman dropped her handkerchief, a man might pick it up for her. Sometimes, if she had her eye on the right man, a woman might intentionally drop her handkerchief to encourage him. As such, people began to think of romance when they thought of lace.

■ **Love knots:** These symbols of everlasting love have a series of winding and interlacing loops with no beginning and no end. They were made from ribbon or drawn on paper.

■ **Lovebirds:** Found in Africa, these colorful birds are so named because they sit closely together in pairs — like sweethearts do. Doves are symbols of loyalty and love because they mate for life and share in the care of their babies.

■ **"X":** This sign represents a kiss, and the tradition started with the medieval practice of allowing those who could not write to sign documents with an "X." This was done before witnesses, and the signer placed a kiss upon the "X" to show sincerity, which is how the kiss came to be synonymous with the letter "X," and how the "X" came to be commonly used at the end of letters as kiss symbols. Some believed "X" was chosen as a variation on the cross symbol, while others thought it might have been a pledge in the name of Christ, since the "X" — or chi symbol — is the twenty-second letter of the Greek alphabet and has been used in church history to represent Christ.

■ **Cupid:** The mischievous son of Venus, the Roman goddess of love, Cupid is supposedly responsible for people falling in love. According to myths, anyone being hit by Cupid's arrow falls in love with the first person he or she sees. In Greek mythology, Cupid has Eros, the son of Aphrodite, as his counterpart. The names of both of these gods are used synonymously with the concept of love today.

# Are Valentine's Day roses a thorn in your side?

## Fresh ideas for giving this traditional gift

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA-ORANGE COUNTY

**SANTA ANA** — While you may dismiss Valentine's Day roses as an uninspired and trite gift, or even a waste of money, your sweetie may expect nothing less than to see you arrive at her (or even his) front door on Feb. 14 weighed down by a massive bouquet of red roses. If it pains you to stand in line for an hour at your local floral shop and spend too much money on something that will be dead in less than a week, then The Art Institute of California-Orange County's Horticulturist and Chief Instructor Diane Weber offers a creative way to give a gift of roses that keeps on giving.

### A rose in the hand or a rose bush in the yard?

If you want to tell your sweetie that your love for her or him will bloom forever, forget the perishable bouquet of roses and plant a rosebush in your loved one's yard, suggests Weber.

"A rosebush is a lasting tribute," says Weber. "And Valentine's Day is the optimum time of year to plant a rosebush for blooming in late February or early March, when spring is near."

According to Weber, rosebushes are sold as a bareroot pulp in a pot or a plastic sack filled with sawdust. They should be planted in an area that allows full sun and is at least four feet away from other plants. She recommends visiting your local garden center and asking a horticulturist or nursery professional for help in picking out the perfect rosebush for your special someone.

"Be sure to choose your rosebush carefully for its disease resistance, particularly if the recipient lives in a coastal area in California, as powdery mildew and rust are more prevalent in this climate," warns Weber.

### The lore of the roses

Red roses are popular on Valentine's Day as they are, tradi-

tionally, a symbol of romantic love, says Weber. However, with so many colors and varieties of roses available now, there are many other ways besides red to tell that special person how you feel. Here, Weber shares some other rose colors and their meanings:

■ **Purple roses** signify that the giver has fallen in love with the recipient at first sight and, according to Weber, challenge red as the perfect color for Valentine's Day roses.

■ **Coral and orange roses** signal desire.

■ **If the roses are for a spouse or someone whom you're dating seriously,** you'll probably want to steer clear of yellow roses, warns Weber. They symbolize friendship.

■ **Pink roses** are an expression of gratitude and appreciation.

■ **White roses** can mean reverence and humility, as well as purity. Weber also suggests other ways you can help your dearest get the most out of this fresh new addition to their garden: "If grown

organically, roses are as healthy and quite delicious flowers. Many culinary Web sites have wonderful and simple recipes that call for fresh roses. I recommend rose tea or rose sorbet."

Regional Cuisine and the Pastry at The Art Institute of California-Orange County.

designing a showcase garden, slated to open in 2007, that will provide food and entertainment for culinary arts students, teaching students about mental protection, composting and conservation.

### The Art Institute of California-Orange County

The Art Institute of California-Orange County is a design and culinary arts school for bachelor's and associate degrees in Advertising, Game Art & Design, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Media Design, Interior Design, Media Arts & Animation.

Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it.

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

Love is life. And if you miss love, you miss life.

—Leo Buscaglia

# Tips for choosing the perfect Valentine's Day fragrance

ARA

This time of year, it's all about finding the perfect Valentine's gift for that special someone. For women and men, fragrance is a wonderful choice. It is a personal gift that shows you care enough to shop for a scent that expresses his or her personality. Here are some tips on how to choose scents.

You can be easily overwhelmed by the number of fragrances to choose from, so you'll need to narrow down your search. For example, do you (and the recipient) like fresh, "green" smells or something with floral overtones? Perhaps you'd like to find something more intense, with musky or spicy overtones. These various types of scents can also be matched to personality traits, which may be an easier way to shop.

Here are some hints for using the recipient's personality to find the right scent.

■ **Feminine:** If you're buying for someone who loves to express her girly side, consider a more traditional, floral or fruity scent.

■ **Earth Mother:** For the special woman on your list who lives an active life and loves the outdoors, look for a fragrance that is earthy or woody, calling to mind the musky essence of the forest. More modern, "oceanic" perfumes inspire thoughts of the water and sand and are another good choice.

■ **Femme Fatale:** A spicy, sexy scent is the best choice here. These types of fragrances can be overpowering, so choose wisely.

■ **Modern Romantic:** Is the woman on your list the person who brings sparkle to any gathering and passion to everything she does? If so, you want a sophisticated yet playful scent like the new Spirit Antonio Banderas for Women.

This new fragrance, the first and only scent designed by a

male celebrity for women, is sure to become a classic. Spirit Antonio Banderas for Women is a provocative and flirtatious fragrance that reflects Antonio's heritage — it evokes the dance, music, energy and passion inspired by his native Spain. The fragrance features citrus and plum top notes, a fresh floral middle and a woody oriental finish; the layering of scents means that every woman will make this scent her own as it blends with her body chemistry.

While you're shopping, why not pick up a bottle of Spirit Antonio Banderas for Men as well? Seductive and masculine, this fragrance is bursting with fresh, raw energy. It features citrus leaves, neroli and natural Bergamot blended with spicy and floral mid-notes as well as sandalwood, amber and vanilla to complete the intoxicating scent.

— Courtesy of ARA Content



ARA CONTENT

# Need some 'textpert' dating advice?

ARA

This Valentine's Day men and women across the country have some big decisions to make when it comes to expressing their feelings. No longer are the carefully crafted words in a drugstore card the only way to go. E-cards, instant messages, even text messages, are all ways to send romantic thoughts.

In fact, sending a text message from a cell phone to share romantic feelings is on the rise, according to the first annual T9 Texting Outlook Survey.

Sixty percent of those who sent text messages have sent one to tell someone they love them or miss them.

Meanwhile, 27 percent have sent a flirtatious or sexy text message and 26 percent have used cell phone text messaging to say "Happy Valentine's Day." Seven percent have even sent a text message to ask someone out on a date — so keep that phone charged up at all times.

Given the rise in text messaging, which is now used for breaking up, making up and for asking out dates, Tegic Communications teamed up with John Gray, author of best-seller "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus" and AOL Love & Sex Coach, for texting tips to help ensure successful coupling in 2006.

### Texting and dating: Top 10 do's and don'ts

Do reply to a cell phone text message in a timely manner. One wants to press "send" only to be left waiting (and waiting) for a reply.

Don't read too much into whether he or she has (or hasn't) signed off with X's and O's for kisses and hugs.

Do carefully consider the effect your text message is going to have on the reader. Send a note that will put a smile on her face, not leave her wondering why she gave you her number in the first place.

Don't overuse emoticons, such as smileys, and text speak, and make sure the recipient knows what you mean. You don't want to scare off a potential date who thinks you mean "lots of love" rather than "laugh out loud" when you type LOL.

Do wait until at least the third date before you engage in "textual relations" with a new love interest. Be sure sexy or intimate texts are well-received before firing off notes after notes.

Don't assume he is awake and of sound mind just because you are. If you receive an outlandish reply at three in the morning or no reply at all, wait 12 hours and try again.

Do flirt and send love letters

via text. But be careful about sending texts that you wouldn't want read by anyone other than the intended recipient.

Don't read too much into failure to reply to your text message. However, if you've texted three times without a reply, it may be time to move on.

Do make sure you're sending a text message to the right person in your phone book. It will be uncomfortable to learn you've sent some hot and steamy love notes to your grandmother.

Don't be a bad speller. It makes less of an impact on the intended to learn that you want to "kiss" rather than "kiss" them.

T9 predictive text software anticipates the word that a user is entering as they press a key just once for each letter. For example, typing "love" requires just four keystrokes (five-six-eight-three) instead of 11 when tapping out letters individually. And "Valentine" can be reached in nine steps instead of 19.

For users new to predictive text entry on cell phones, check out [www.textfast.T9.com](http://www.textfast.T9.com).

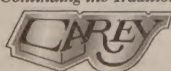
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Those with other lens types like progressive and bifocals tend to lift their head in awkward positions to view their screens more clearly. As a result, they strain their neck and shoulder muscles.

Compounding the discomfort, smaller more fashionable frames look great but can limit the viewing field needed for computer use.

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